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Prince Hassan receives Ali Nasser

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday received at the Royal Court former South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Mohammad, who commended Jordan's role in healing rifts among Arab countries. Prince Hassan and Mr. Nasser discussed means of enhancing inter-Arab relations. The meeting was attended by the Crown Prince's private advisor Mohammad Al Saqqaf.

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Mubarak: PLO wants part of Golan Palestinian, Israeli talks stall; deadline will be missed

GAZA (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief negotiator Ahmad Ourea said on Saturday that a Tuesday signing deadline for a deal with Israel on expanding Palestinian West Bank self-rule would be missed.

"We will resume talks tomorrow at a Dead Sea resort... after one week we will assess the results... We are so far from (meeting) the July 25 date. We still need more time to conclude the accord," Mr. Ourea told Reuters.

Israeli officials warned a window of opportunity might be missed if a deal was not concluded by month's end.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid told Israel's army radio: "I do not believe it's possible to sign on the 25th... I hope (it will be signed) at the end of this week, because if it is not signed, I'm afraid the list of problems will only lengthen."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in remarks made on Friday and broadcast by army radio on Saturday, said:

"America and Europe are two 11-month continents: August does not exist for them. If we do not sign by the end of this month, it will be postponed for a long time." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Ourea said: "If the intentions are good, I believe we can bridge some of the basic gaps and if we do next week, we will be able to conclude an agreement."

Later PLO chief Yasser Arafat, speaking to reporters in Gaza after meeting Argentinean Foreign Minister Guido di Tella, said:

"The gap is still wide. Asked about the July 25 deadline, he said: 'We hope they will be committed to counter a strong military,' he said."

Husseini calls on Israel to give Palestinians full authority for total security

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Palestinian official Saturday said Israel needs to give the Palestinians total authority in the West Bank and Gaza in order for the Palestinians to give Israel total security and warned that Palestinians should not expect an instant western-style democratic government in the future Palestinian state.

Faisal Husseini, the Palestinian National Authority official responsible for Jerusalem, said the future regime in the future Palestinian state would not be any different from those in the other Arab countries.

"The Palestinian people did not come from Norway or Sweden," Mr. Husseini said at a lecture delivered at the University of Jordan. "The regime might be slightly different (from Arab countries) in terms of a wider margin of liberties. But essentially, it will be the same."

The former head of the Palestinian delegation for the Madrid Middle East peace talks however noted that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) will work on reinforcing civil institutions in the Palestinian state towards the enhancement of democracy. He said the forthcoming would usher in change.

"We, who have lived under occupation and martial laws, would like to see civil institutions streng-

thens to what has been agreed."

The second stage of the 1993 PLO-Israel peace deal — Israeli troop redeployment away from West Bank Arab population centres and Palestinian elections — is a year behind schedule.

After week-long talks at the northern Israeli town of Zichron Yaakov adjourned on Friday, Mr. Ourea said "crucial" gaps on water, troop redeployment, and security arrangements remained.

The sides had set July 1 as a target for concluding the West Bank accord. When that deadline passed, they set July 25 as the signing date for the deal. The first stage, Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, began in May 1994.

The PLO insists that the Israeli army pull out from all West Bank cities, villages and refugee camps.

Israel says it is ready to withdraw from some Palestinian towns and villages, but insists on keeping control of areas close to Jewish settlements, including in Hebron, the only Palestinian town with settlers living in it.

Palestinian authority local government head Saeb Erekat called Jewish settlers protesting expansion of self-rule a "time bomb."

Settlers fired shots, stoned Arab cars and scuffled with police on Friday while blocking 15 West Bank roads.

Israeli media have reported Mr. Arafat agreed to a meeting with Mr. Peres in Egypt on Wednesday to delay water rights talks until final status negotiations.

Mr. Ourea said Saturday: "We will not accept at all the postponement of redeployment from Hebron or to postpone any of the interim issues to the final status (talks)."

Israel radio said on Saturday Mr. Arafat would meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Mr. Peres in the coming week. It gave no date. Mr. Ourea said no such meetings were planned as yet.

Another Palestinian official, Tayib Abdul Rahim, told Reuters there was an Israeli offer — still unsatisfactory to the PLO — to release 2,541 of the 5,500 Palestinians Israel holds in two stages under a West Bank deal.

Israel said on Thursday it would free up to 1,000 prisoners on the accord signing. The PLO demands all prisoners be freed.

In Cairo, President Hosni Mubarak was quoted as saying that the PLO wants a part of the Golan Heights which Syria is trying to get back from Israel.

"... Palestinians have announced that there is part of the Golan called the Palestinian Golan and both the Palestinians and Syrians are in disagreement over that," Mr. Mubarak said in remarks to be published on Sunday in the semi-official Al Ahram.

It was the first such revelation about a Palestinian claim in the Syrian Golan Heights, captured by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. There was no immediate confirmation from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Mubarak said that the disagreement was over what is called the "June 5 line," a reference to the day the war began.

"There are some problems in defining this line..." Mr. Mubarak said. He did not say how much land the Palestinians were claiming but said "the solution was for all parties to go back to the border lines before June 5, 1967."

"Then when the issue becomes inter-Arab... it will be easier to solve it," he said.

efforts should be exerted among Arab countries to open trade links between them to face the challenges of the new era where all countries in the world are merging in blocs.

Despite all criticism of the PNA performance, Mr. Husseini said the authority was making tangible progress.

"It is not the change we desire, but the important thing is that there is change and there is progress," he said.

"It is good to have a healthy opposition. Mr. Husseini countered a questioner. "And it is good to have somebody always reminding us of our ultimate objectives. But the opposition has to know that if it wets in power it would do the same things that the authority is doing."

"Determinations," he said, "took place only when violations overreached the limit."



Ben Alawi meets King, ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Saturday Omani Minister of Foreign Affairs Yusuf Ben Alawi (above) and interviewed with him Omani Jordanian relations.

King Hussein stressed the need for joint Arab action for re-building bridges of confidence and enhancing brotherly ties among Arab states so that they can deal with common issues and work for a better future for the future generations.

The Omani envoy conveyed a message to the King from Sultan Qaboos of Oman at the meeting which was attended by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Earlier Mr. Ben Alawi met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and reviewed Omani Jordanian relations and joint Omani Jordanian endeavours to end differences among Arab countries.

Mr. Ben Alawi paid tribute to Jordan for its own efforts in this regard noting that they are in concert with those efforts exerted by Oman.

The minister also met Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Mr. Kabariti and reviewed with them regional and international issues of common concern to Jordan and Oman in addition to the situation in Bosnia.

Mr. Ben Alawi later left Amman for home and was seen off at the airport by Mr. Kabariti and other foreign ministry officials.

Jordan protests at 'vague' Russian stand on Bosnia

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan on Saturday voiced dissatisfaction with the "vague" Russian stand regarding the question of Bosnia and the ongoing Serb aggression on Bosnian Muslim people.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said he made the Kingdom's views known to Moscow during talks in Amman with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Possuvalyuk.

"I informed Possuvalyuk about Amman's discontent regarding the vague Russian stance on Bosnia and the Serb aggression on this peaceful people," Mr. Kabariti told reporters following the talks.

"We stressed the need for a clearcut (Russian) stance in line with United Nations pertinent resolutions and international legitimacy," he added.

Russia on Friday opposed the use of airstrikes against Bosnian Serbs, proposed by the United States at an international conference on the crisis in London.

Mr. Possuvalyuk said he would pass on Jordan's concern to the Russian government after the talks, which centred on regional and international developments and the question of lifting international sanctions on Iraq, officials said.

Mr. Possuvalyuk, President Boris Yeltsin's special Middle East envoy, said the talks also revolved around improving bilateral ties and preparations for a regional economic summit in Amman, scheduled for late October.

"I also briefed Kabariti on talks I held recently in Baghdad," he added in Arabic.

The Russian envoy visited Kuwait and Iraq last week, and laid the ground for a projected visit to the two states by Foreign Minister Andrei Kozirev.

"Russia regards positively Iraqi steps with regard to implementing United Nations resolutions," he said.

"We urge Iraq to pursue efforts towards implementing all pertinent resolutions," a U.S. prerequisite to lifting the five-year-old sanctions.

On Friday, His Majesty King Hussein said he would join peacekeepers in the former Yugoslavia to demonstrate growing frustration with the continued fighting in Bosnia and the international community's inability to halt it.

Jordan Friday launched a television talk show, which has raised more than 4.5 million dinars (\$6.5 million) to aid Bosnian refugees.

King receives envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday received at the Royal Court an envoy from Polish President Lech Walesa, Witold Jurasz, who conveyed to the King a written message dealing with Jordanian-Polish relations. Mr. Walesa stressed in his message the depth of relations between Jordan and Poland and called for further cooperation and coordination between the two countries. Mr. Jurasz voiced his country's support for the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and the Middle East peace process. The meeting was attended by the Polish Charge D'affaires in Amman, Edmund Pawlak. King Hussein also met with Japanese Ambassador to the U.N. Hishashi Owada and reviewed with him Jordanian-Japanese relations and means of enhancing them. Mr. Owada is currently in Jordan to attend the meetings of the Consultative Committee of the United Nations University (UNU) Leadership Academy which will convene in Amman this week. Jordan and the UNU signed an agreement to establish the Academy in Amman April 24. The Leadership Academy in Amman will provide training and education for potential political leaders from around the globe.

King urges firm stand on crisis in Bosnia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday stressed Jordan's total rejection of ethnic conflicts everywhere and called for a firm stand by the international community on the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In an interview with the Cable News Network (CNN), His Majesty said he and the Jordanian people would not save an effort in offering everything possible to resolve the Bosnian crisis.

He said the situation in the former Yugoslav republic is unprecedented in the history of the world.

"We are seeing something that the world has never witnessed before — ethnic cleansing, religious intolerance; all these are things that are utterly repulsive to us and we are deeply moved."

Describing the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a reminder of the Holocaust, he said Jordan was extremely worried over what is happening in the republic and that the whole Jordanian people have expressed their

true feelings on the situation by their attempts to raise funds to help the victims of the war.

The king said he felt solutions offered to resolve the crisis seem to be at the expense of the victimised side and voiced his belief that such settlements might be the cause of influences by some U.N. Security Council members, especially Russia.

"With all due respect, I think that there is a lot of appeasement to, unfortunately, the aggressor at the expense of the victim and possibly this is connected with the situation in between some of the permanent members of the Security Council, in particular, Russia's view seems to have a certain effect on what happens or does not happen there."

The King added that there was an attempt on the part of Russia to "equating the victim and the aggressor, this cannot happen; something must happen to show that

(Continued on page 7)

Peacekeepers prepare for Zepa's fall

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Bosnian Serb forces kept up their bombardment of the U.N. safe area of Zepa Saturday as peacekeepers tried to prepare to handle a new flood of refugees.

Bosnian Serb artillery and tanks fired on Zepa, a small town in eastern Bosnia, throughout much of Saturday, U.N. officials reported.

"The reality is, it is just a matter of time (before Zepa falls). It's too late to be saved," a U.N. official said.

"Our efforts are limited to making this fall a little better than Stebenica so there's a humane and civil way for people to leave," said a U.N. spokesperson who asked to remain anonymous.

Even these minimal efforts however were thwarted by Bosnian Serb intransigence. Attempts on Saturday to get a U.N. delegation to travel to the enclave came to nothing. The delegation was turned back on Friday.

"Because of the situation we will not get Bosnian Serb consent," a U.N. spokeswoman said.

Local Bosnian defenders have threatened to attack Ukrainian peacekeepers in the town if a U.N. delegation

from Sarajevo did not arrive. There were no reports that this had happened.

Officials predicted that it was just a matter of time before the Bosnian Serbs run out of patience. "They can enter the town any time they want and there's only so long the BiH (Bosnian government army) can hold out. They can make life pretty uncomfortable and they are keeping the pressure up," one official said.

Bosnian Serb army commander General Ratko Mladic has demanded the town surrender or face further attacks after negotiations to evacuate women and children in exchange for being allowed to take draft-age men prisoner broke down Friday.

Observers speculated that the forces in the town are trying to buy time so people can escape across mountainous terrain to the west.

U.N. officials mentioned reports emerging of Bosnian army troops giving covering fire to soldiers from Srebrenica arriving in northeastern Bosnia country after trekking across Serb-held territory.

The shelling of Zepa comes

(Continued on page 7)

Egyptian court renews detention of Muslim Brotherhood members

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — An Egyptian state security court on Saturday renewed the detention of eight members of Egypt's largest fundamentalist group imprisoned since January and freed four others.

Police began a crackdown on the group, the Muslim Brotherhood, by rounding up 28 members last January and accusing them of plotting to overthrow the government.

Last week, police arrested 19 Brotherhood officials — most of them members of the group's consultative council, the main leadership body — on similar accusations.

The number remaining in prison is unclear, because police have freed several members only to detain them again. Despite repeated accusations by government officials, none of the suspects has been officially charged.

Although the Brotherhood has renounced violence, the government has accused it of supporting the Islamic radicals who are seeking to unseat President Hosni Mubarak's secular government and replace it with Islamic rule.

Brotherhood officials have said the arrests are merely a way to discredit the group before next fall's parliamentary elections in which it

hopes to run candidates.

Mamoun Hodeiby, a spokesman for the Brotherhood, said the latest roundup was aimed at justifying extending the detention of the January suspects.

Police linked the new suspects to those already detained and said they had evidence they had ties with Sudanese leaders whom Egypt has blamed for an assassination attempt last month on Mr. Mubarak.

"The police plan has succeeded in pressuring the court to renew the detentions," Mr. Hodeiby told the Associated Press.

The detention of the eight was renewed for 45 days. Such jailing of suspects during investigations — and before charges are filed — is often done in Egypt.

Under the state-of-emergency law in force since 1981 when Muslim militants killed President Anwar Sadat, state prosecution cannot detain suspects without charging them for more than six months. But prosecutor can refer the case to a court, which has the right to renew the detentions.

The Muslim Brotherhood is officially outlawed, but the

(Continued on page 7)

Syria calls for active U.S. role in peace talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria on Saturday called on the United States to play an active role in upcoming peace talks in Washington between Israel and Syrian ambassadors so that an agreement can be reached.

"We hope that the U.S. administration will play an active and effective role to help conclude negotiations between the ambassadors and then permit the opening of talks between military experts," the official daily Al Thawra said.

Official Syrian radio said the announcement of ambassador-level talks in Washington with U.S. participation "puts an end to Israel's games and its attempts to block the peace process based on exchanging land for peace."

The radio also reiterated Syria's position that it will not allow Israel early warning stations on the Golan Heights after any withdrawal from the strategic plateau, which the Jewish state has occupied since 1967.

It also accused Israel of trying to "hamper peace negotiations between Syria and Israel."

Military talks between the two sides have been frozen because of differences over the early warning stations, which Israel wants to monitor Syrian military movement on the Golan.

On Tuesday, Syria agreed to ambassador level talks in Washington, without providing an exact date.

In Tel Aviv, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday that Israel would not oppose a meeting with Syria at the level of ambassadors.

"We do not want to be and definitely do not want to appear to be the side that is breaking off the negotiations," Mr. Peres said on Israel Radio.

Earlier this month, U.S. envoy to the Middle East Dennis Ross failed to reach an agreement from Syria for further meetings between Syrian and Israeli military chiefs.

The military officers were negotiating the security arrangements involved in any peace agreement that would include an Israeli pullback on the Golan Heights.

The central sticking point in Israeli-Syrian talks is the future of the Golan Heights.

Syria wants the entire strategic plateau in exchange for peace. Israel has indicated willingness to pull back on the Golan, but has yet to define borders.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told school children Thursday that Israel would insist on a warning station in the Golan in any peace accord with Syria, the daily Haaretz said.

Mr. Rabin said he would not repeat mistakes made in the 1979 peace treaty with Egypt, when Israel returned the Sinai desert for peace.

"There we were left without any presence in the Sinai and we were not given a warning station," Mr. Rabin said, according to Haaretz.

Syria has reportedly offered an aerial early warning station to Israel.

Asked about possible flexibility on the issue, Mr. Peres said, "we are standing by what we proposed."

Mubarak issues fresh warning to Sudan

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak issued a fresh warning to Sudan Saturday, saying he would respond "by all means necessary" to any threat to Egyptian national security from Khartoum.

He told the government daily Al-Ahram: "I reserve the right to have recourse to all means necessary if the group in power in Khartoum tries to threaten Egyptian national security."

Relations between the neighbouring countries have been strained since Mr. Mubarak implicated Sudan's Muslim fundamentalist military government in an attempt to kill him in Addis Ababa on June 26.

The rising tension has reactivated a dispute between the two countries over ownership of the Halaib Triangle of territory near the Red Sea and provoked Egyptian accusations that Sudan was supporting Muslim militants in Egypt.

"We have high-level committees which are following the situation and clarifying the diverse options and alternatives," said Mr. Mubarak.

He added he had met Defence Minister Hussein Tantawi and Prime Minister Ataf Sedki in the past few days to discuss options on dealing with Sudan.

Mr. Mubarak said he had been patient "despite the anger of the Egyptian people in the face of humiliations and repeated provocations from the Sudanese regime in exporting terrorism and its aggression against Egyptian territory."

"They (Sudan's leaders) have interpreted Egypt's patience as a sign of weakness and have not understood that it signals our wish to preserve relations and the interests of both peoples."

The Egyptian president said Sudanese leaders raised the Halaib question every time Cairo warned them against supporting terrorists.

Mr. Mubarak and his military commanders have already discussed possible measures against Sudan but the option they choose de-

pends on what the Sudanese government does next, he told Saturday's edition of the government newspaper Al-Ahram.

He described Sudanese leaders as "without weight and unable to influence events, negatively or positively" but, unlike on previous occasions recently, he declined to mention names or attack them personally.

Mr. Mubarak said Sudan had reported Egyptian planes dropping bombs in Halaib but he dismissed the idea as ridiculous.

"We didn't drop a single bomb but we have many other means and I reserve to myself the right to use everything I can use if the group ruling in Khartoum goes too far or tries to threaten Egyptian national security," he said.

"I met the prime minister, the minister of defence and the joint chiefs of staff to discuss the options on Sudan and of course I can't disclose these steps because they are changing according to the attitudes this group takes. But I don't take hasty or foolish measures," he added.

In what appeared to be a reference to Sudanese Islamists, Mr. Mubarak said he had met Hassan Al-Turabi, the ideologue behind the Khartoum government, he said Egypt knew "the true meaning of Islam."

This person who speaks about Islam, and I don't want to mention his name and I don't want to talk about his lifestyle, but it's strange that he talks about Islam and does the opposite," he said.

The Egyptian government has built Turabi up to be public enemy number one, blaming him for much of the violence by Egyptian Muslim militants in the south.

Mr. Mubarak said the governments of some countries such as the United States, Switzerland, France and Germany were beginning to reconsider the political refugee status they have given to Muslim militants from the Middle East.

Egypt has been seeking the extradition of several Muslim militant leaders convicted for acts of political violence.



A policeman looks at the pools of blood and the damage done to a patrol minibus in the Gaziosmanpasa neighbourhood of Istanbul. Twelve policemen were wounded, three of them seriously, by a bomb thrown at the minibus in the neighbourhood here where religious clashes left 25 people dead in March 1995. The bomb was thrown by one of four men who ran off and vanished afterwards, the news agency Anatolia reported (AFP photo)

Rebel Kurds kill 3 policemen in Turkish town

HOZAT, Turkey (Agencies) — Rebel Kurdish guerrillas killed three policemen in an attack on a town in eastern Turkey, officials said Saturday.

Celal Dogan, mayor of Hozat town in Tunceli province, told Reuters the local governor imposed a curfew on the town after the attack by the members of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

He said security forces inflicted losses on the PKK militants after repelling them with artillery and mortar shelling, but could not give any figure for PKK casualties.

Sporadic clashes were still taking place outside the town, he added.

In the southeastern provincial centre of Diyarbakir, officials said a 19-year-old

man, named Omer Erkek, was killed by unidentified gunmen as he walked out of Fatihpasa Mosque on Saturday.

Diyarbakir has been the scene of hundreds of killings in past years, mostly blamed on a conflict between the PKK and a clandestine Islamist group called Hizbollah.

In another incident near in Kulp town near Diyarbakir, officials said unidentified attackers killed a guard employed by the government and wounded three in a raid on the guard's house on Friday night.

Officials from the eastern Elaziz branch of Republican People's Party (CHP) said a 20-year-old man, Sinan Demiras, was killed while in police custody after he was detained on July 8 for draft

dodging. Police officers were not immediately available for comment.

Turkey's Human Rights Association reports have said dozens of detainees, mostly Kurdish and leftist militants, have been killed by torture during police interrogation in Turkey.

More than 17,000 people have been killed in the PKK's 11-year-old fight for an independent state in Turkey.

In Istanbul, terrorists hurled a hand grenade at a police minivan Friday, injuring 12 officers, three of them seriously, police said.

Four suspects fled from the attack in the Gaziosmanpasa neighbourhood, and it was not immediately clear who was responsible, police said.

Shortly after the attack, police noticed a red banner hanging outside a nearby house and detained three people from the house for questioning, but they were not believed to be directly involved in the bombing.

Tensions have run high in the low-income district since March, when leftist Alawite residents clashed with police for three days.

The March riots followed a suspected rightist attack at an Alawite coffee house, Turkey's Alawite Muslims support the country's secular system.

Several extreme leftist illegal groups find sanctuary in the Gaziosmanpasa neighbourhood, Armed Kurdish and Muslim terrorist groups are also active throughout Istanbul.

U.N. mediator condemns foreign interference in Afghanistan

KABUL (AFP) — United Nations special peace mediator Mahmud Mestiri condemned foreign interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs Saturday, but said some Afghans themselves were also to blame for encouraging it.

"Afghans have provoked and encouraged some interference," Mr. Mestiri said. He returned this week to assess the situation in Afghanistan, which has been plagued by factional feuds and fighting since the 1992 Mujahedeen victory over the former Communist-led government.

Mr. Mestiri told journalists foreign interference was without doubt one of the major problems facing Afghanistan today.

Afghan faction leaders have accused foreigners of supporting their rivals with arms and ammunition, military training, spare parts and by printing currency.

The U.N. peace envoy, in Kabul since Thursday, said the U.N. and Afghans must act together to rid the country of the problem, which was one of the topics he had discussed with President Burhanuddin Rabbani here Friday.

Mr. Rabbani and his allies have proposed a new peace plan, a cornerstone of which is a U.N. guarantee for the "cessation of foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan."

Foreign interference is a sensitive issue because those countries usually accused of it — Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan — have also all been involved in the search for a peace formula for the war-torn country.

The U.N. envoy said he had not brought any fresh peace proposals with him.

but had come for "a reassessment of the situation," after which he would report back to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in New York.

He plans to fly Sunday to the northern provincial capital of Mazar-i-Sharif for talks with Rabbani's Uzbek rival, ex-Communist militia General Abdul Rashid Dostam, to be followed by a meeting with the Taliban Muslim religious movement in the southern capital, Kandahar.

Mr. Mestiri was, as on previous visits, optimistic about prospects for a solution to Afghanistan's three-year long factional strife. The "warlords" now had more positive attitudes than in the past, he said.

"Now there is a mood for peace — the problem is only one of time," he added.

But as he spoke heavy fighting continued in several provinces, particularly in the north.

Defence Ministry sources said an offensive by Dostam's forces continued Saturday for the third consecutive day in the Salang region, near the district centre of Khenjan about 160 kilometres (100 miles) north of Kabul.

The Dostam attack, which was said to include an assault by helicopter-borne commandos on hill-tops behind the pro-Rabbani lines, was repulsed, the sources said.

On Friday, the Taliban attempted an infantry attack against pro-Rabbani troops defending their Logar province frontlines some 60 kilometres (37.5 miles) south of Kabul, but were beaten back.

In Western Badghis province, pro-Rabbani troops were still fighting Dostam's troops in Morghab district, with no reported advance by either side.

Lebanon detainees reported on hunger strike; 103 freed

BEIRUT (AP) — Some 40 people arrested during anti-government "labour" riots three days ago began a hunger strike in a Beirut prison Saturday, demanding their unconditional release, radio stations reported.

The privately owned Voice Of The People and Free Lebanon radios said the detainees smuggled out word that they will end their fast only when they are allowed to go home.

Judicial authorities declined to comment on the report and there was no immediate way to independently verify it.

Another 103 detainees held since Wednesday's disorders over soaring prices were set free Friday by a military court after fining them the equivalent of \$60 each for carrying pistols despite a government ban even on licensed arms that day.

In Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon, police said 25 of the 53 detainees held there since Wednesday's disturbances have been released.

The other 28 will be interrogated by a military judge Monday. Among them are four Palestinians suspected of assaulting policemen and setting a police car on fire, a police statement said.

At least 13 people, among them four policemen, were injured in clashes between

troops and stone-throwing demonstrators in Sidon Wednesday.

The General Federation of Labour Trade Unions, which called for Wednesday's nationwide strike and demonstrations, has said it will abstain from negotiating a compromise with the government unless all the detainees are freed.

Federation President Elias Abu-Rizk said union leaders have scheduled a meeting for Thursday to intensify action against the government if it does not free the detainees.

The conflict erupted over a 38 per cent increase in gasoline prices levied by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's government last week to finance a 20 per cent increase in civil servants' salaries.

The government allowed the work stoppage. But it mobilised the 55,000-strong army and 20,000-strong police force to prevent demonstrations.

The protests presented Mr. Hariri with the most serious challenge since he came to power in October 1992 amid a post-war economic crisis that sent the Lebanese pound plummeting to a record low of 3,000 to the dollar.

The billionaire premier, who enjoys the backing of Syria, the undisputed power broker in Lebanon, has stabilised the currency at 1,650 pounds to the dollar.

Premier Arab media thrive in Europe — under Saudi control

By Anthony Shadid
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — The Arab World's most prestigious newspapers and magazines cover the Middle East from London. Its most ambitious satellite broadcast network has set up shop outside Rome.

All share a common thread: Saudi Arabian control.

In a trend that has accelerated in the 1990s, Saudi investors and princes have set up or purchased leading Arab media, most of which are based in Europe, particularly London.

With wealthy owners, large staffs and modern communications, the media are free of the rigid censorship that exists in much of the Middle East and have outlasted their poorer competitors in Arab countries. But there's growing criticism that the Saudis have too much influence over the

information that circulates in the Arab World.

"There is one political umbrella, which covers all the Arab press, and that is the Saudi umbrella," said Abdul Bari Atwan, editor of London-based Al-Quds, a struggling Palestinian newspaper often critical of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

"How can you have freedom of expression if one country dominates the scene completely?" he asked.

Press freedom is notoriously limited by most Middle East governments, which impose explicit controls or rely on self-censorship to keep journalists in line.

For years, Beirut was the exception. But Lebanon's civil war drove journalists abroad in the 1970s and 1980s. Many of them in fear for their lives, Saudi Arabia, flush with its tremendous oil wealth, began stepping in.

Today, dozens of publications and radio and

television stations, many under Saudi tutelage, have opened or relocated in London and Paris, including Al Hayat, recognised across the Middle East as the leading Arab newspaper.

Controlled by Prince Khalid bin Sultan, the Saudi military commander during the Gulf war, Al Hayat is read by the Arab elite and regularly breaks stories ahead of Western newspapers. Its circulation is far smaller than Egypt's venerable Al-Ahram newspaper, but Al Hayat's strength is its ability to reach across national boundaries.

With more than 20 bureaus, and top correspondents in most Arab capitals, Al Hayat's editors consider the newspaper an international publication and its coverage pan-Arab.

They say from the vantage point of London, they can take a broad view of the region, unfettered by national senti-

ments or arbitrary restrictions placed on Arab journalists at home.

"There's a merit in looking at things from a distance. You can put it into a global perspective," said Maher Othman, editor of Arab news and Arab affairs at Al Hayat.

"We know we reach the decision-makers, the elite, the people who matter."

Its in-depth reporting on the unrest in Algeria, the Arab-Israeli peace process and Islamic militants has been widely praised. But stories on Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states are rarer and hardly ever critical, the newspaper's opinion columns and editorials even less so.

A recent flap — the Saudi decision to bar Egyptian workers from entering the country — was not mentioned in Al Hayat. The paper has regular stories quoting Iraqi dissidents, but Saudi opposition figures receive

scant attention.

Al Hayat's managing editor, Khairallah Khairallah, acknowledged self-censorship occurs. He defended it as necessary because the newspaper relies on Saudi advertising.

"Our main concern is not to be banned in Saudi Arabia because most of the advertising comes from the Saudi market," Mr. Khairallah said in a telephone interview from London.

"From time to time we have to take into consideration Saudi censorship."

Mr. Atwan, who formerly worked at the Saudi-owned newspaper Ashraq Al-Awsat, also based in London, said the pressure extends to other Gulf states as well.

"The only country we were allowed to criticise was Israel," said Mr. Atwan, now the editor of Al Quds.

In a similar development, pan-Arab satellite television channels and

networks have emerged in recent years, including the Middle East Broadcasting Centre, Orbit and Arab Radio and Television (ART). All three are controlled by Saudi investors, and only ART is based in the Arab World — Cairo, Egypt.

Although all have struggled financially, they carry tremendous influence in reaching the burgeoning satellite dish audience in the Middle East, which has swollen to 2.5 million viewers by some estimates.

The oldest, the Middle East Broadcasting Centre, was set up in London four years ago and is owned by Sheikh Walid Al Ibrahim, a businessman whose sister is the wife of Saudi King Fahd.

Its fast-paced, Western-style news broadcasts and round-table discussions on topics like Arab nationalism and Islam have won it devoted viewers.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 771111-14

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 The Finestones
14:30 The Mighty Jungle
15:00 Pugsall Summer
15:30 Abbie Macie
16:00 Family
17:00 Children's Programme — Spirit
17:30 Magician — Entice Special
18:00 News in French
19:15 News in Urdu
19:30 News Headlines
19:45 Tomorrow's World
20:00 Nurses
20:30 The Bird and the Beak
21:15 Sports
21:45 News in English
22:25 Counterstrike
23:30 The Hidden Room
23:59 Grace Under Fire

PRAYER TIMES

04:00 Fair
05:40 Sunrise/Duha
12:42 Dhuhri
16:23 Asr
19:43 Maghrib
21:15 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweith, Tel. 810741
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 625785
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624941
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 674401

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622669
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541

Anglican Church Tel. 648851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 676691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

Min Max Temp

Amman 10-32

Aqaba 26-39

Desert 17-36

Jordan Valley 22-37

Yesterday's high temperatures

Amman 30, Aqaba 38, Humud, readings, Amman 42 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Al-Musa 675485
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidan 750111
Dr. Youssef Nave 751444
Dr. Muhammad Al-Ahmad 770994
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 758336
Al-Azma pharmacy 637055
Nafrook pharmacy 626791
Al-Salam pharmacy 647691
Shamsan pharmacy 637661
Narmuth pharmacy 626672
Nafth pharmacy 647052

IRBID:

Dr. Muhammad Al-Hilli 270773

Akash pharmacy 654117

ZARQA:

Dr. Farah Al-Agha 98727

Khalil pharmacy 654117

EMERGENCIES

Fixed Control Centre 697111

Civil Defence Department

661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue

690341

Civil Defence Emergency

194

Rescue Police Tel. 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade

617101

Blind Bank

774121

Highway Police

843402

Traffic Police

696101

Public Security Department

69521

Police Complaints

695881

Police Complaints

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Home News

Jordan Times, July 23, 1995 3

Crown Prince calls for active municipal council work

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday said that all Jordanians should bear the responsibility not only of making decisions but also of implementing them, and for this reason it is important to give the local councils real powers to contribute to balanced development in their respective regions.

The Prince, who was

addressing a rally of Bani Sakher tribes at Um Al Amad district, south of Amman, said the local councils that were recently elected should be closely cooperating with their constituencies in order to achieve that goal.

He emphasised the need for collective work in the building of institutions and urged the councils to carry out their duties with a team-

like spirit.

Referring to the television programme Friday that raised JD 4.5 million in money and in-kind contributions for the victims of the crisis in Bosnia, Prince Hassan said that the programme reflected a genuine integration of the Jordanian society which proved capable of carrying out a duty exceeding expectations.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday chairs a meeting of the Jordanian people's delegation in advance of the Beijing World Conference on Women (Petra photo)

Princess Basma chairs people's delegation meeting in preparation for World Conference on Women

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday chaired a meeting of the Jordanian people's delegation to the meeting of non-governmental organisations to the Beijing World Conference on Women which will open in September.

Discussions at the meeting also covered the international plan of action which is to be submitted to the Beijing Conference and also topics to be viewed by a preparatory meeting in Beijing on

August 31, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. Speaking after the meeting, the regional coordinator for the conference, Haifa Ahn Ghazaleh, told Jordan Television that the participants reviewed differences in ideas by the governments and non-governmental organisations in the Arab World and studied the views of women leaders officers acting between the two sides.

According to Dr. Abu Ghazaleh, the meeting man-

ifested similarity between the views of government and non-governmental organisations in Jordan with regard to the various points listed in the international plan of action.

She said that the meeting was also aimed at narrowing any differences in views between the governments and non-governmental organisations as well as the outcome of a non-governmental organisations meeting which was held at the

JVA forbids new planting of fruit trees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Saturday notified farmers in the Jordan Valley that tree-planting will not be permitted in that region until sufficient water supplies have been made available for this type of cultivation.

He said farmers who had planted trees in the Jordan Valley after April 1993 had done so in violation of JVA regulations.

Addressing reporters at a meeting in his office, JVA Secretary General Hashem Shboul said that the planting and cultivation of new high water content trees such as banana, citrus and olive is forbidden in the valley for the time being because of insufficient amounts of water for irrigation.

The JVA will resume the issuance of licences for planting such trees when the water supply situation in the valley is adequate, Mr. Shboul said. He added that the JVA has discovered that farmers of 70 agricultural

units have violated the tree-planting embargo rules.

Mr. Shboul warned that the JVA may be forced to cut down those trees planted in violation of the rules.

Asked about the waters coming from the Dajania pipeline from Lake Tiberias to the King Abdullah Canal in the Jordan Valley Mr. Shboul said that in implementation of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, Israel is committed to pumping 20 million cubic metres of water during the current summer.

The amount of water pumped so far through the 3.3-kilometre pipeline since its inauguration last month has raised the level of the King Abdullah Canal, helped to put back in service the four main pumps at Deir Alla, increased the amounts available for irrigation in the Jordan Valley and improved the quality of water in general, according to Mr. Shboul.

His Majesty King Hussein formally opened the pipeline at a ceremony held on June 26.

The pipeline, which cost \$5 million, will draw 20 million cubic metres of water from Lake Tiberias to Jordan in the summer and 10 mcm in winter, according to the terms of the peace treaty.

The water will be used for domestic and agricultural purposes and will help reduce Jordan's water shortages, according to Mr. Shboul.

He added that the JVA has completed a project for the improvement of the quality of water for the central Jordan Valley farms. The project is expected to become operational at the start of the winter.

He said under this project better quality water will be supplied to the valley farmlands from the Yarmouk River, noting that the project had a total cost of JD 4.2 million.

Council announces 9,135 students admitted to state-run universities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Higher Education Saturday announced that the five state-run universities and the Amman University College will admit a total of 9,135 undergraduate students in the 1995-96 academic year.

Meeting in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, the council members announced that 3,140 will be admitted to

the University of Jordan, 2,140 to Yarmouk University, 1,200 to the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), 1,905 to Muta University, 510 to Zarqa University and 240 to the Amman University College.

Prince Ghazi was recently appointed chairman of a committee charged with revising rules for admitting students residing in remote

areas and the badia regions to state universities.

According to the announcement, the council accepted 270 students to the vocational diploma course, 796 to masters degree programmes, and 17 to doctoral degree programmes at the University of Jordan.

At Yarmouk University, 330 students will be accepted this year for the vocational diploma course, 435 for

the masters programme and six to the doctoral.

At JUST, 231 students will be accepted to the masters programme, and at Muta University 135 will be admitted to the masters program, 200 to the diploma in education, 35 to the higher diploma in management, and 35 to engineering diploma programmes.

The council also intro-

duced amendments to the regulations governing admission of students to private and public universities alike.

According to the amendments, the state universities will accept the students of the serving members of the Higher Council of Education and only one child of every member of the former council.

Donations to Bosnia to be used in relief, reconstruction efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Hashemite Charity Organisation (HCO), which Friday raised JD 4.5 million in money and in-kind contributions in a nation-wide campaign to help the victims of the war in Bosnia, Saturday said it would use the donations to send off more relief supplies to Bosnia, give special care to the wounded and children, supply equipment, support the work of the Bosnian Centre for Social Rehabilitation, contribute to the reconstruction of Bosnian institutions and carry out projects in Bosnia when the crisis subsides and the fighting ends, according to Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Ahbadi, who is also the HCO secretary general.

Speaking the day after the



Abdul Salam Ahbadi

Jordan Television telethon programme for aid to the Bosnian people, Dr. Ahbadi said the HCO has already dispatched relief supplies to nine Muslim countries following civil strife, and natural disasters.

Meanwhile the Senate Saturday announced its contribution of JD 15,000 to the Bosnian cause.



Director General of the Housing and Urban Development Department Yousef Hiyasat (right) Saturday signs a contract with representatives of a local firm for the infrastructure of the second phase of the Abu Nuseir Housing Project on the outskirts of west Amman (Petra photo)

'France looks at Jordan as possible timber re-export hub'

AMMAN (Petra) — Luc Dassonville, head of a French delegation currently on a visit to Jordan Saturday said that France is contemplating using Jordan as a regional centre for re-exporting French timber to countries in the Middle East region.

Mr. Dassonville who is head of the National French Bureau for Forests was speaking at a meeting with Haydar Murad, chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, to discuss Jordanian-French trade and economic cooperation.

The delegation accompanying Mr. Dassonville represents major French companies dealing with timber and wooden furniture.

We are also interested in launching cooperation with Jordan in expanding areas planted with forests, said Mr. Dassonville at the meeting attended by Jordanian importers of wood.

Mr. Murad said that Jordan was keen on increasing the volume of trade and economic cooperation with France and added he hoped that France would use the October 'Middle East and North Africa' economic summit to present ideas on investment and on further cooperation with Jordan's private sector.

Noting that the balance of trade between the two countries was far below expectations, Mr. Murad said that it was hoped that the private sector would help develop trade exchanges.

Mr. Dassonville said the delegation is interested in defining the Jordanian market's needs of wood and the prospects of making Jordan a centre for re-exporting French wood.

According to Mr. Murad the Jordanian market has to date relied on wood imported from Scandinavian countries.

HUDD contracts local firm to lay infrastructure in Abu Nuseir

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) Saturday signed a contract with a local construction firm to carry out the infrastructure work for the second phase of the Abu Nuseir Housing Estate.

Director General Yousef Hiyasat signed the contract on behalf of HUDD and said the contract entails laying the basic services for 310 plots of land on which housing units and shopping centres will be built. He added that the scheme is to be carried out on a total of 225 dunums.

Under the agreement the contractor will build a network of roads totalling 65,000 square metres, pedestrian alleys amounting

to 6,500 square metres, a water network of 7,500 metres of piping, a 140-metre-long rain water drainage canal together with electricity and telephone networks, retaining walls, car parks and public gardens, according to Mr. Hiyasat.

He said that the second part of the Abu Nuseir Project is divided into two categories of plots: the first is 312.5 square metres and the second is 250 square metres.

Mr. Hiyasat said that the HUDD had assigned these plots to public sector employees, and in the past three weeks the corporation has received 2,200 applications for units. He said department officials will begin studying the requests

shortly. Mr. Hiyasat emphasised that HUDD will assign some of the plots to handicapped employees, but he did not elaborate.

He said that the plots of land will be sold to the public sector employees once a study of the applications has been completed but he added that no sale can be transacted prior to completion of construction and the laying of the infrastructure and civil works.

He said HUDD expects that the entire project will be completed by year's end. The first part of the Abu Nuseir Housing Estate on the outskirts of west Amman was completed in the early 1980s and currently houses about 4,500 families.

Workshop to illustrate value of 'Alternative dispute resolution' mechanisms

By Khattab Salman
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A workshop on the "U.S.-Jordan legal exchange project: Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms" opened in Amman Saturday with the aim of examining the possibility of applying the ADR mechanisms in the legal procedural system of the Kingdom.

The four-day event is organised by the faculty of law at the University of Jordan in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the U.S. embassy in Amman and the Institute for the Study and Development of Legal Systems in San Francisco, California.

According to a United States Information Service (USIS) statement, ADR is an important element of the U.S. legal system and saves money, time, and effort in the pre-court period.

The ADR mechanisms provide a third neutral party to try and settle the filed law suit before going to court, the statement said.

According to Steven Mayo, director of the Institute for the Study and Development of Legal Systems,

96 per cent of all filed law suits are currently resolved through the ADR in the U.S. Twenty years ago nearly all law suits went to court, placing a heavy burden on the American legal system, Mr. Mayo emphasised.

"We are here to examine the feasibility of implementing ADR in Jordan by briefing your legal experts on the mechanisms, and helping them choose what is better for them," Mr. Mayo said.

He indicated that all legal systems suffer from certain shortcomings, and that "there is always room for refining all legal procedures in order to make them more efficient."

U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan said that this is a unique opportunity to enrich understanding between our different cultures, and that Jordan's interest in the rule of law and in democracy-building requires that the Jordanian legal system be able to deal with new emerging situations in the legal process.

Minister of Justice Hisham Tal described the workshop as knowledge linkage between cultures and civilisations in times of global information exchange and communication revolution.



Professor Mohammad Ghazweh of the University of Jordan Faculty of Law Saturday addresses a workshop on the "U.S.-Jordan legal exchange project" (Petra photo)

Twenty-five Jordanian and seven American experts are participating in the ADR workshop which is the first phase of the two-phased U.S.-Jordan legal exchange project.

The second phase will start in October at which in-depth discussions are expected to take place in employing ADR in the Jordanian legal system.

The workshop will discuss six ADR mechanisms: case management, early neutral evaluation, mediation, judicial settlement, arbitration, and summary judgement proceedings.

The Saturday workshop included lectures on civil jury trials, civil non-jury trial, phases of the U.S. and Jordanian civil justice processes, U.S. and Jordanian criminal justice processes, initial presentation to judges after arrest, plea bargaining and guilty pleas.

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

* Concert by New England Youth Ensemble of the U.S. at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

* Performance by Nazareth Band of Popular Dancing at Artemis Steps at 9:00 p.m.

* Performance by Jafra - Group at the Sound and Light Theatre at 9:00 p.m.

* Concert by Zdravetz Folklore Group of Bulgaria at The Forum at 9:00 p.m.

* "Street Show" by The Chipolatas at The Forum at 9:30 p.m.

* Novel recital by Samih Al Qasim, Nazih Abu Afsh, Taher Riyadh, Jiries

Samawi, Zuleikha Abu Rishah, and Kazem Al Sate' at Darat Al Furun, Jabal Weidheh (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.).

* Performance by several Jordanian groups at the Forum (6:30-9:00 p.m.).

* Puppet show - Aladdin and the Magic Lamp at the Sound and Light Theatre at 7:45 p.m.

FILM

* "Drums in the Deep South" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings and ceramics by Arab artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Uttheina.

* Exhibition in honour of Palestinian intifada victims and detainees at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

China slams U.S. House bill on human rights

BEIJING (Agencies) — Worsening Sino-American relations threatened to plunge further Saturday as China attacked a new U.S. bill calling on President Bill Clinton to press Beijing for reform on human rights.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Guofang called on Washington to step in to stop passage of the bill by Congress or face further damage to relations that have cooled dramatically in the last few weeks.

On Tuesday, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a bill calling on Mr. Clinton to press China for reform on human rights, arms proliferation and trade but stopped short of setting sanctions. The measure was sent to the Senate.

The act, in disregard of the basic principles of international relations, has blatantly violated the principles of the three Sino-U.S. joint communiques, and constituted gross interference and unwarranted charges of China's internal affairs," Mr. Shen said.

China says the joint communiques bar all official contacts between the United States and Nationalist-ruled Taiwan and was enraged when Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui was allowed to make a private U.S. trip last month.

Beijing has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province since the Nationalists fled there after losing the civil war in 1949.

"China wants the U.S. government to adopt concrete measures to prevent the act from being passed by the Congress so as to avoid further

er damages to the bilateral relations," Mr. Shen said in a statement.

"The Chinese side expresses strong resentment and firm opposition to the act, and has made solemn representations to the U.S. side," he said.

The bill averted passage of a resolution to deny Most Favoured Nation (MFN) trading status to China that could have further torn the fabric of relations between the two countries.

Mr. Clinton had promised to veto an anti-FMN measure, which would deny China the same trading status as other nations, and the House lacked votes to override his veto.

Sino-U.S. ties have been further battered by disputes over trade, the detention of U.S. human rights activist Harry Wu in central China this month, and allegations strongly denied — that China has exported missile components to Iran.

The bill passed Thursday calls on Mr. Clinton to "undertake intensified diplomatic initiatives to persuade" Beijing to release Mr. Wu and broaden human rights, halt the export of ballistic missile technology, curtail expansion of its military capacity and comply with the prohibition on forced labour exports to the United States.

It urges Mr. Clinton to press the issues in talks with China, through the United Nations, World Bank and other international organisations, and report back to Congress.

Beijing has said a meeting set for Aug. 1 between Chinese Foreign Minister

Qian Qichen and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during an Asian regional conference in Brunei would decide whether battered Sino-U.S. relations can improve.

Mr. Christopher has said he would raise Mr. Wu's case, an issue likely to anger China.

However, both sides have stressed that the cooling of relations has not spilled over into the economic field.

China is to send a 250-member trade mission to tour the United States in August to drum up investment, a sign economic ties are thriving despite diplomatic disputes.

President Clinton has begun reaching out to experts on China for advice on how to overcome problems that have soured relations between the two countries, the White House said Friday.

Mr. Clinton "is troubled by the current status of Sino-U.S. relations," said White House spokesman Michael McCurry.

"He is very intent on making sure that in an honest and candid way, we address those impediments that exist in the bilateral relationship, and for that reason, he has been consulting with a number of those he considers experts on U.S.-China relations," Mr. McCurry said.

He recently met with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on his return from a visit to China, with Dr. Kissinger at the meeting were other members of the group that travelled with him, including another former secretary of state, Alexander Haig.



A local resident flees the scene while a fireman fights the flames near a residential area on Mount Pendelikon, some 15 kilometres from Athens' centre. The fire continuously was

fanned by strong winds of up to seven on the Beaufort scale, destroying large expanses of woods, forests and homes and forcing the evacuation of many areas (AFP photo)

Hundreds evacuated in fire near Athens

ATHENS (AFP) — Hundreds of people were evacuated as a forest fire continued its rampage north of Athens, destroying hundreds of homes and other buildings, the Defence Ministry said.

The fire had raged unabated for 24 hours, and an inter-ministerial task force appealed for help from Germany, Spain, Italy and France after the local prefect said national resources could not cope with the catastrophe, the ministry said.

Defence Minister Gerassimos Arsenis went to the area Saturday to direct about 1,000 firefighters, half of whom are soldiers. Nine water planes resumed missions at dawn but efforts to gather water at sea were impeded by high winds and storms.

The fire broke out early Friday and quickly spread along the seaside of Mount Pendelikon, which rises to 1,100 metres (3,600 feet) in eastern Attica.

Mount Pendelikon, whose slopes are covered with dense pine and plane trees, is known historically for having provided the marble for ancient monuments including the Parthenon.

The fire has engulfed several hundred homes in the forest and along the edges of a half-dozen towns including the near suburb of Palini, and has destroyed several thousand hectares of pine and shrub as well as farmland.

The government has invoked emergency measures reserved for major natural disasters. Interior Minister Kimon Koulouris said all the resources of the state

were mobilised to deal with an "unprecedented" situation.

Mr. Koulouris said buses were standing by to evacuate the population threatened by the flames.

Defence Minister Arsenis said troops reinforcements had been called in from Corinth and Thebes to help fight the flames. Army units in Attica and Peloponnese have been placed on alert.

People living in the areas devastated by the fire said on television Friday that rescue efforts "lacked coordination" and the fire service had taken too long to get on the scene.

At Anthoussa, a town about 12 kilometres from the capital, the mayor said about 200 houses had gone up in flames and that it took fire-

men two hours to arrive at the scene.

In Drafi, Daou and Kallithea, the worst-hit towns, officials spoke of hundreds of buildings destroyed. Dozens more mainly isolated houses were burned in Kalitichnoupoli and Nea Makri.

There have been no reports of deaths, but a fireman and an airman were taken to hospital after being injured fighting the blaze.

Innovator stages 75th Salzburg Festival

SALZBURG, Austria (AFP) — With a mixture of doggedness and daring, Belgian artistic director Gerard Mortier has survived three years of in-house bickering and struggles for power to open this year's Salzburg Festival Sunday as it marks its 75th anniversary.

Since his appointment in 1992, the 52-year old innovator who is set to have his contract renewed until 2001 has incurred the wrath of traditionalists upset by his energetic espousal of "modernity", which he defines as "dialectic between the ancient and the modern."

Right from the start he wanted to give this prestigious event a new look. He argued that at the end of the 20th century the festival ought to stop being an elitist affair and instead open itself up in a bid to "reinterpret the world's great musical and literary works for new generations."

To do that, he broke with the very austere classical style moulded over so many years by the German conductor Herbert von Karajan, who was director from 1956 to 1960 and then again from 1964 to 1988.

Mortier was soon on a collision course with the Vienna Philharmonic, which feared losing its monopoly here, and with the conductor Claudio Abbado over a new production of Verdi's opera Otello.

The Belgian impresario insisted on independence in choosing productions and stars. He refused to be beholden to record companies, which he said used to tell Karajan which soloists he could have.

Such freedom of choice was an integral part of the openness being sought, Mortier said.

Meanwhile, a statement by Suu Kyi outside the benefit of a visit to the festival said she was in Burma's military government has said this.

Thailand's newly appointed "minister of traffic" got a taste of what he is up against when he was travelling to a Bangkok army base to catch a helicopter.

Minister Thaksin Shinawatra had to abandon his limousine and jump on the back of a motorcycle taxi to make his appointment on time, witnesses said.

Mr. Thaksin, who has vowed to ease Bangkok's world-famous traffic jams within six months, was going up in the helicopter to get a bird's-eye view of the traffic problem.

Mr. Murayama is Japan's first Socialist prime minister in four decades, and his coalition has recently appeared credible for the first time since its birth, surviving a year with plenty of hiccups but no major disaster.

However, he has held the coalition together only by compromising his party's most dearly held principles, and this is expected to sap its natural protest vote.

Though Mr. Murayama is prime minister, his three-party coalition is dominated by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), whom the Socialists used to oppose bitterly.

Support for his Socialists is widely expected to flop, and the main question Sunday is whether or not the party will be trounced so badly that the prime minister will have to stand down.

"I'm going to fight up to the very end," the 71-year-old premier said as he set out for his last day of campaigning.

Mr. Murayama has stated a target of 22 of the 126 seats up for election, but a poll last week showed his party was likely to manage somewhere between 15 and 19.

Political insiders have predicted he will step down if the Socialists win nine seats or fewer, and stay on if it gets 15 or more. Ten to 14 is seen as a "grey zone".

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Taiwan defiant against China's tests

TAIPEI (Agencies) — Taiwan sounded defiant notes Saturday over China's scheduled missile tests off its coast with the Foreign Ministry accusing Beijing of putting up obstacles to eventual reunification and citizens saying they trusted their government and did not fear the tests.

Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien accused Beijing of creating "two Chinas" by oppressing Taiwan and refusing to recognise the island as a legitimate political entity.

"China, by ridiculously regarding itself as the central government and Taiwan as the local government, is the real perpetrator of creating two Chinas," he said in a statement.

A poll conducted by the mass-circulation United Daily News and published Saturday showed that 71 per cent of 1,013 people interviewed said they did not fear China's missile tests and only 21 said they were scared.

The newspaper said that a major reason for people's lack of fear was that they had confidence in their government's ability to handle crises between China and Taiwan.

The tests, to be conducted in the sea 140 kilometres north of Taiwan, were scheduled for July 21-28 but Taiwan authorities said Saturday they did not know whether or not the tests had begun.

"We simply don't have the

equipment to detect the missiles even if they've already been fired. Any information can only come from abroad, and we currently have not received any information," a senior official in the Defence Ministry told Reuters by telephone.

The mass-circulation China Times reported that China has already fired two missiles. It cited unidentified military sources and fishermen who heard "explosion sounds" near the testing area. The ministry denied the report.

The tests are seen by Taiwan as a sabre-rattling by China to press Taiwan to ease off on recent efforts to gain more international recognition.

China has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province since the two sides split after a civil war in 1949 and vows to retake the island by force if it declares independence.

"Taiwan, by recognising the reality of a split China and aggressively participating in international activities, is helping to boost an environment to push for eventual reunification," Mr. Chien said.

China and Taiwan both claim to be parts of one China that will one day reunify. But radical differences exist over how reunification should be achieved.

Although the tests have

not been confirmed to take place, their spectre already was taking an economic toll in Taiwan's fishing industry.

Fishermen in Taiwan's northern coast have been forced to vacate the sea due to concerns over the missile tests. The work stoppage is expected to cost the fishermen-Taiwan-dollars 200-300 million (\$38-12 million).

But the worry that has gripped the island seemed to be easing Saturday. The stock market index rose by 1.15 per cent to continue Friday's 0.2 per cent gain after it had tumbled by four per cent Wednesday and 2.7 per cent on Thursday.

Flights between Taiwan and Seoul, which would normally fly over the area, began taking detours to avoid potential danger, aviation officials said.

President Lee Teng-hui Thursday made clear that Taiwan could not accept threats to its sovereignty, but he did not directly address the question of the missile tests.

Bilateral relations have slumped since June when Beijing protested vehemently against Mr. Lee's private trip to the United States.

Meanwhile a Hong Kong newspaper said Friday China plans to hold naval exercises, including drills using live ammunition, in the disputed Spratly Islands later this year.

S. Korea students hold anti-government protest

SEOUL (R) — South Korean police clashed with students and dissidents near the presidential Blue House Saturday during protests over a decision not to charge two ex-presidents who led a bloody military crackdown 15 years ago.

Reuter journalists said police arrest more than 30 people who attempted to march on the Blue House in anger over this week's ruling by Seoul prosecutors that cleared former President Chun Doo-hwan and his successor Roh Tae-woo of any offence.

The protesters were dragged away by police on a street 30 metres away from the Blue House in central Seoul only two hours before President Kim Young-sam left for the United States for talks with President Bill Clinton.

It was not known if Mr. Kim had been told of the protest.

The protesters said they were representatives from organisations related to the May, 1980, military suppression of a pro-democracy revolt in the southwestern city of Kwangju. They demanded the government prosecute Gen. Chun and Gen. Roh and that Mr. Kim step down for failing to do so.

Elsewhere in the capital, over 1,000 students fought a pitched battle outside Yonsei University in a similar protest, hurling hundreds of stones and wielding iron pipes at riot police who fired teargas to disperse them.

Some of the students took part in a rally held earlier in the day at a Seoul park, organised by dissident groups, at which the participants vowed to fight until the government met demands that Gen. Chun and Gen. Roh be punished and revealed the full truth behind the crackdown.

During the rally, the protesters burnt effigies of Gen. Chun, Gen. Roh and another one symbolising prosecutors.

Support for his Socialists is widely expected to flop, and the main question Sunday is whether or not the party will be trounced so badly that the prime minister will have to stand down.

"I'm going to fight up to the very end," the 71-year-old premier said as he set out for his last day of campaigning.

Mr. Murayama has stated a target of 22 of the 126 seats up for election, but a poll last week showed his party was likely to manage somewhere between 15 and 19.

Political insiders have predicted he will step down if the Socialists win nine seats or fewer, and stay on if it gets 15 or more. Ten to 14 is seen as a "grey zone".

Mr. Murayama is Japan's first Socialist prime minister in four decades, and his coalition has recently appeared credible for the first time since its birth, surviving a year with plenty of hiccups but no major disaster.

However, he has held the coalition together only by compromising his party's most dearly held principles, and this is expected to sap its natural protest vote.

Though Mr. Murayama is prime minister, his three-party coalition is dominated by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), whom the Socialists used to oppose bitterly.

Japanese leaders make final appeals to voters

TOKYO (R) — Japanese leaders made last, desperate pleas for support Saturday as a disillusioned electorate wondered whether it was worth turning out in the rain to vote in Sunday's parliamentary election.

At stake in the election are half the seats in parliament's 252-member Upper House, which has only limited powers and cannot affect the choice of prime minister.

But it is Japan's first nationwide poll for two years, and has been billed by the ruling-coalition parties as a referendum on Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama's year-old government.

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Pilots find snake in cockpit after takeoff

CHITA, Russia (AP) — Pilots of a Russian jetliner sat absolutely still for more than three hours before making an unscheduled landing with a snake in the cockpit, a news agency reported Friday.

The TU-154 had just taken off from Chita en route to Moscow when the pilots discovered their "dangerous stowaway," ITAR-TASS said, citing a report in the Chita daily Narodnaya Gazeta.

The pilots finally landed their plane in the western Siberian city of Omsk, where the snake was removed, ITAR-TASS said. It did not identify the flight occurred. Authorities speculated that the snake stowaway boarded the plane in Chita, because the jet had made a trip to Harbin in eastern China the day before.

Mr. Bentsen confessed he had not been informed of an initial raid on the compound in Friday 1993 prior to the operation, and his admission helped bolster Republican claims of poor planning and execution.

But the harshness of the questioning he was subjected to also drew sympathy from some legislators.

Congress granted its long-delayed final approval to a bill chopping \$16.3 billion from housing, jobs and other programmes, while a House panel voted to limit federal abortion aid to the poor.

In a day that shone a spotlight on the ascendancy of the conservative agenda in Washington, the Senate voted 90-7 Friday to whittle scores of already enacted social programmes.

President Clinton, who had negotiated an easing of some of the cuts with congressional leaders, was ready to sign the measure, even though it slashes national service, education reform and some of his other domestic priorities.

"I am pleased that bipartisan leaders of Congress worked with me to produce a good bill," Mr. Clinton said in a written statement.

He attacked his Republican opponents in Congress, saying elected officials who portrayed federal agents as "some sort of armed bureaucracy... ought to be

ashamed of themselves."

Among the witnesses questioned in the first week of the hearings was former Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, whose department was responsible for some of the agents involved in the Waco standoff.

Mr. Bentsen confessed he had not been informed of an initial raid on the compound in Friday 1993 prior to the operation, and his admission helped bolster Republican claims of poor planning and execution.

Buthelezi ponders gamble for power

ULUNDI, South Africa (R) — South African Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, perennial rival of President Nelson Mandela's ANC, proposed Saturday a make-or-break gamble for political power in his KwaZulu-Natal province.

Opening the annual conference of his Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, he said he might call an early election in a bid to increase his provincial majority from 51 per cent now to more than the two-thirds needed to adopt a provincial constitution.

"It might be that we are left with no option but to go back to the people for a fresh mandate and to increase our majority in KwaZulu-Natal so that we can secure a constitution for this province, or lose the entire stake in this gamble," he said.

Mr. Buthelezi said national legislation was increasingly encroaching on the autonomy of the KwaZulu-Natal province, where Inkatha won a slim majority over Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) in elections last year.

Mr. Buthelezi dismissed speculation he might pull out of Mr. Mandela's transitional coalition government, but vowed never to submit to the

ruling ANC on provincial matters.

"The hard facts of reality are that the ANC is exercising political power in this province with respect to all matters which ought to be a provincial competence.

"If we fail in our duty to halt the ANC in its headlong rush to concentrate power around itself... (what we as South Africans would have done is to exchange an apartheid centrist monster for an ANC centrist monster," he said.

The party's annual conference in the Zulu stronghold of Ulundi takes place against a background of continued violence between Inkatha and ANC supporters in KwaZulu-Natal province.

More than 1,000 people have been killed there in the year since the first all-race elections brought Mr. Mandela to power.

Inkatha accused Mr. Mandela of reneging on agreements that brought it into elections it had threatened to boycott, including guarantees in the interim constitution of a measure of provincial autonomy.

Party sources said before the conference started that a major question on the agenda would be whether Mr.

Buthelezi should now stay in Mr. Mandela's coalition as home affairs minister.

"We want him back here where his people are. What is he achieving for the party in home affairs?" said an Inkatha member of the parliament.

"In that way he could play the role of party leader to its full extent, building the IFP in the province and the rest of the country, and challenging the ANC and its authoritarian legislation," added another legislator.

The party will decide formally Sunday whether to call Mr. Buthelezi back to the province, party sources said.

Suu Kyi reunites with family

RANGOON (AFP) Aug 21 — Aung San Suu Kyi's British husband Michael Aris and their youngest son arrived here Saturday to see the Nobel Peace laureate for the first time since her release, sources in her household said.

The family had a reunion in January while the Burmese dissident was still under house arrest, but visa requests by her family for subsequent visits to Burma were denied by the military authorities here.

Ms. Suu Kyi married Mr. Aris in 1972 and the couple have two sons, Alexander, 22, and Kim, 18, who arrived here with his father Saturday.

Ms. Suu Kyi, meanwhile, spent her 12th day of freedom since her release on July 10 Saturday meeting members of her political party, the National League for Democracy, and personal friends. Meanwhile, about 400 well-wishers had gathered outside her house by the early afternoon when she briefly came to the entrance gate to make her daily public appearance.

During the appearance, she repeated a call to the public to support her efforts to achieve democracy here, eye-witnesses said.

Two white-coloured vehicles with tinted windows carrying Mr. Aris and his son drove into the compound of Ms. Suu Kyi's house just after 4.00 p.m. (9:00 GMT), depriving the television crews awaiting the arrival of the pair a view of them.

A statement posted by Ms. Suu Kyi outside the gate for the benefit of waiting journalists said she would be resting Sunday and will receive outside visitors.

Meanwhile a senior official in Burma's military government has said that the coun-



Burmese dissident Aung San Suu Kyi makes one of her daily appearances to well-wishers outside her house (AFP photo)

try's diverse ethnic groups are enjoying peace and unity for the first time since independence more than 40 years ago, an official newspaper reported Saturday.

The government had also negotiated with "certain political parties" and there is now "relevant cooperation" between them, the English-language New Light of Myanmar quoted Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt as saying.

He did not however elaborate and no mention was made of Ms. Suu Kyi, observers here noted.

"Thanks to the military," Khin Nyunt said, "all but one of the armed ethnic groups fighting against successive governments have struck ceasefire deals with the government."

The powerful first secret-

ary of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) was speaking Friday to a group of Kachin Independence Army (KIA) leaders, the newspaper said.

The KIA, one of 15 armed ethnic groups of have signed peace-for-development ceasefire deals with the SLORC, was in Rangoon to coordinate development projects for the Kachin State in northern Burma, it said.

Khin Nyunt told the KIA leaders that the military's primary goal was to transform Myanmar (the SLORC's official name for Burma) into a modern developed state.

A national convention responsible for writing a new constitution was in progress, and political parties and representatives of the armed groups were also taking part, he said.

Australia, N. Zealand unite against French tests

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — Australian and New Zealand political leaders agreed here Saturday to lead global pressure against planned French nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating and his New Zealand counterpart Jim Bolger spoke for one hour about opposition to the test programme in Mururoa Atoll, French Polynesia.

"We are determined to maintain the pressure on France to modify its programme, to desist from testing weapons and also to encourage further international focus on France," Mr. Keating told reporters after the meeting.

But the Australian leader declined to match Mr. Bolger's recent decision to send an unarmed navy research vessel, the Tui, to the test site to accompany a planned protest flotilla of private yachts.

Asked if Australia would send a vessel to the area, Mr. Keating replied: "No, we thought about that originally. You send navy ships when you want navy ships to do 'navy things'."

He was also non-committal on whether Australia would join New Zealand in international court action against the weapons programme, casting doubt on whether there was a legal avenue and whether action could be taken in time.

Mr. Bolger said the action in the international court was a "very narrow opportunity" but that New Zealand would pursue the legal avenue if it was possible.

He said he was happy with the level of cooperation on the issue between the two countries.

"I feel certain following our discussions today that we are going to see that cooperation move forward in the various forums that are open to us," Mr. Bolger said.

The New Zealand premier said there seemed to be a "second wave" of opposition to French President Jacques Chirac's June decision to approve a programme of eight underground tests in Mururoa Atoll from September.

Mr. Keating added that he believed Mr. Chirac may have been "somewhat surprised" by the strong reaction of Japanese and European governments to the nuclear programme.

A senior Japanese politician announced plans Friday to join Australian and New Zealand politicians in the South Pacific protest flotilla to Mururoa.

The announcement by Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, who has also suggested a Japanese consumer boycott of French goods, followed a statement by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama Thursday accusing France of betraying the trust of non-nuclear states.

Mr. Takemura vowed that he and members of his New Party Sakigake would charter a boat from Tahiti and sail to Mururoa "definitely before September."

Japan has also said it will sponsor, along with Australia and New Zealand, a resolution at the United Nations calling for a halt to the testing.

Mr. Keating said further support for the U.N. resolution might be enlisted by Australia and New Zealand at the next 15-nation South Pacific Forum meeting in September.

He said the South Pacific Forum had already exercised substantial pressure on France and "we will be having continuing dialogue with forum partners about how we advance that pressure."

Mr. Bolger and Mr. Keating met to discuss the issue after attending the launch of a warship built under a joint Australian-New Zealand contract in Williamstown, western Melbourne.

In Canberra, demonstrators chained themselves to the front of the French embassy to protest France's plans to resume nuclear tests.

They also unveiled a large banner on the front of the building that said "SOS Mururoa."

Sri Lankan army confirms 160 people died in blast

COLOMBO (Agencies) — The Sri Lankan military confirmed Saturday that 130 civilians and 30 Tamil rebels were killed in a blast in an explosives-laden truck in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

"My source is our intelligence," military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munsinghe told a news conference in Colombo.

There had until now been no official confirmation of reports that the truck had exploded at Kokuvil on July 12, and the casualties are still the subject of debate.

The explosion occurred when Sri Lankan troops were advancing on territory held by rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who are fighting for a homeland in the north and east.

"The LTTE has now cordoned off the area to the public," Brig. Munsinghe added.

The deaths are among the highest for civilians since Operation Leap Forward was launched in the peninsula on July 9.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said 65 people were killed when the air force bombed St. Peter's Catholic Church at Navali on the first day of the offensive.

The military has said it still does not have access to the area and could not tell who was responsible.

Police Friday night raided the offices of the National Christian Council and detained a Methodist missionary from Michigan.

The council's general secretary, the Reverend Dr. Rennie Perera, told Reuters Kenneth Mulder was being held on suspicion of carrying explosives for the rebels.

Mr. Mulder, 26, was travelling to the north with a church delegation led by the bishop of the Jaffna diocese of the Protestant Church of South India, Subramaniam Jebanesan, when he was detained in Vavuniya and brought to Colombo.

He is being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, police in the capital said.

Questioning was at a preliminary stage and explosives had not been mentioned, an officer said. Mr. Mulder can be held for up three days without charges being brought.

Justice Minister G.L. Peiris said Mr. Mulder was found holding suspicious documents.

The armed forces, now preparing for the next phase of the offensive, say they have regained 78 square kilometres of territory in the Jaffna peninsula.

Brig. Munsinghe said food supplies to last one month were already arriving in the north for people displaced by the fighting.

There were 2,000 to 3,000 people now in refugee camps set up in the north, he added.

Tamil separatists have threatened to kill thousands of Muslim civilians unless they flee a town in northwestern Sri Lanka by Aug. 1, a police source said Friday.

"We need only an hour to turn Puttalam into a forest of dead bodies as we did in Kattankudi and Eravur," the rebels said in a letter sent to political and religious leaders and school principals Tuesday in Puttalam town.

The police source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, read the letter in a telephone interview. It also appeared in the Daily News, a newspaper in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital.

Most of 27,000 people in the town 120 kilometres north of Colombo, are Muslims.

In August 1990, after issuing a similar warning, the rebels massacred 140 Muslims in a mosque in Kanankudi, and 122 more in Eravur. Since then people have returned to the two towns in eastern Sri Lanka.

Muslims, who form seven per cent of the population, have often been targeted by the rebels, since many of them live in areas claimed by the Tamil rebels as their homeland.

Last month, Muslims in the eastern town of Kalmunai received similar letters of warning, but the rebels denied sending them.

The latest threat has not forced the Muslims to begin fleeing Puttalam, police said. But authorities have put the local police on alert against a possible Tamil rebel attack.

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The police source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, read the letter in a telephone interview. It also appeared in the Daily News, a newspaper in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital.

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Chirac takes African tour to Gabon

LIBREVILLE (R) — President Jacques Chirac arrived in Gabon Saturday for the third leg of his tour of France's former African colonies, airport officials said.

Mr. Chirac, on his first foreign tour since his election in May, arrived from Ivory Coast and is scheduled to hold talks with president Omar Bongo and five other central African heads of state.

Mr. Chirac left Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, after

criticising other Western countries' policy towards the continent.

He left Ivory Coast after a visit to pay homage to the country's founding father, late President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

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Relatives of missing protest at site of Seoul store collapse

SEOUL (AFP) — About 100 relatives of the scores still listed as missing after last month's department store disaster staged a day-long sit-in at the collapse site here Saturday protesting the halt to rescue work.

Television showed some of the women in the group battering at the shields of a cordon of riot police with shovels which had left on the site by the rescue workers, who wound up most of their operations Friday.

The relatives were also protesting compensation procedures which require proof that a family member was killed in the June 29 collapse that has left 458 confirmed dead by last count.

But some 60 of the bodies recovered defy identification, and no trace has been found of the between 144 and 154 still missing in the nation's

worst civil disaster which also injured almost 1,000.

Mid-week when most of the tonnes of rubble from the five-storey building collapse had been cleared with heavy equipment from the fourth and 1st basement level, the frantic relatives began combing city rubbish tips where the rubble had been dumped.

They found, photographs, store employees ID badges, bones and bits of jewellery embedded in the crumbled masonry.

Relief officials have promised gene identification of the unidentified bodies, but it will take two months or more, but feared that some of the bodies would remain permanently unidentified.

They also argued that some of those on the missing list were unrelated to the collapse, spawning a controversy over compensation.

Meanwhile the prosecutors office Saturday formally charged the arrested Sampoong store owner, Lee Jun, and four associates with manslaughter by negligence.

City authorities have sought to freeze Mr. Lee's assets, as individual compensation money for the dead is expected to surpass \$200,000.

Arrest warrants were sought for seven construction company officials and architects of the building, for modifying blue prints and using sub-standard materials in building the Sampoong store which collapsed on June 29.

Faulty design, shoddy construction and illegal modifications have been blamed for the collapse, and three district officials have been arrested for taking bribes from Sampoong in return for overlooking design changes and illegal floor expansion.

Shuttle discovery lands in Florida

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Space shuttle Discovery and its five astronauts returned to Earth Saturday following a satellite-delivery and science mission prolonged by bad weather.

Discovery glided through a hazy sky and landed shortly after 8 a.m. (1200 GMT) at the Kennedy Space Centre, where the flight began nine days ago.

The spaceship almost ended up some 3,600 kilometres (2,000 miles) away.

Although the weather was fine at the seaside, landing strip early Saturday, mission control worried that high humidity might result in fog and low clouds similar to what scuttled Friday's landing attempt. Flight directors ordered Commander Terence "Tom" Henricks to skip a sunrise touchdown.

As Discovery circled Earth one more time, the weather remained favourable and mission control notified the

astronauts to come home and end their 5.9-million-kilometre (3.7 million-mile) journey.

"It's good to be back," Cmdr. Henricks said after the shuttle rolled to a neat stop on the concrete runway.

"Looks like a nice morning here."

NASA was determined to bring discovery back Saturday, either at Kennedy or Edwards Air Force Base in California. The space agency prefers Kennedy for landings because it costs about \$1 million to ferry shuttles from California to Florida.

Discovery was launched from Kennedy on July 13, more than a month late because of a pair of woodpeckers that drilled some 200 holes into the insulating foam of the fuel tank.

Within six hours of liftoff, Cmdr. Henricks and his crew had completed their main job by releasing a \$330 million

NASA communication satellite.

The Trucking and Data Satellite was later boosted by an attached rocket motor into a 35,680-kilometre-high (22,300-mile-high) orbit. It joins a network of NASA satellites that link ground controllers with shuttles and science satellites.

After dispatching the TDRS craft, the astronauts spent a week conducting medical and military experiments.

Also along for the ride was a creepy, crawly cargo of pregnant rats, fish embryos and tobacco worms that grew into space moths during the voyage. The creatures are subjects in reproductive and developmental studies.

The flight was a milestone in the transition from the historic mission control centre, a room made even more famous by Hollywood in the hit film Apollo 13, to \$250 million control centre.

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Empty words on Bosnia

THE WESTERN allies who met Friday in London to discuss the Serb onslaught on Bosnia again proved their indecisiveness despite their resolution to counter any attack against the Bosnian safe haven of Gorazde with a "substantial and decisive response." Presumably aiming to protect the U.N.'s presence in the enclave and in Bosnia in general, as British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said, the allies did nothing more than freezing the situation on the ground leaving all the gains that the Serbs made in the past two weeks in place. Not only that, by not mentioning the enclave that already fell to the Serbs (Srebrenica) or others still under attack (Bihac, Zepa and Tuzla), the allies seem to be giving a licence to the Serbs to continue their advance on those areas.

Last week the French president, Jacques Chirac, was up in arms demanding that the West intervene in force to put an end to Serb aggression. Likewise, the U.S. Congress was putting pressure on the administration to show more resolve in the crisis and to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia. Now, however, both the French and American positions seem to have been watered down considerably by Friday's announcement.

Nor did the allies decide on whether they should strengthen the U.N. presence or remove the U.N. forces altogether; stranding the U.N. and its forces in the same indecisive situation.

What this suggests is that the faction within the alliance that advocates minimum intervention (the British, the German and the Russians) has won the day. In fact, it is this minimum intervention, in other words: inaction, that encourages the Serbs to continue their aggression knowing that they will ultimately get away with any gains they make on the ground, humiliating the U.N. in the process.

Surely, the allies, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the U.N. must have at their disposal a number of options, short of overall intervention, to end Serb aggression and Bosnian suffering. But by failing to take action they will only give credence to the notion that the conflict is not merely ethnic and could very well be religious.

We cannot but agree with His Majesty King Hussein's description of the situation of Bosnia being "disastrous." And frankly we do not see in the London resolution much hope for ending the conflict.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily Saturday called for an Islamic nations' summit meeting to deal with the question of Bosnia and to try to come up with a formula aimed at saving the Bosnian people who face a genocide at the hands of the Serbs. Sultan Al Hattab said the Muslim countries ought to realise that the Serbs are intent on pursuing their atrocities against the women, children and the sick and are determined to defy the United Nations and its peacekeeping mission. Indeed the Muslim World should realise that what is happening in Bosnia is a revival of neo-Nazism, which advocates ethnic cleansing and that all the statements and pledges given by the leaders of the Western world are not to be trusted since they serve no purpose. Indeed the Western stand presents the major powers condoning the atrocities and the Western slogans about human rights are all false, said the writer. Why are the Arab and Islamic World silent vis-a-vis these massacres and why are the Europeans adopting a double-standard when it comes to dealing with questions pertaining to Arabs and Muslims? asked the writer. Why do the Europeans and the Americans show outrage when a Jew or a European faces injustice but keep silent about the massacring of innocent children in the heart of Europe? he continued. The writer said that the neo-Nazi era exposes the falsehood of Western bragging about democracy.

A WRITER in Al Ra'i criticised the U.S. administration for demanding that the Iraqi regime show respect of human rights, stop repressing Iraqis and open the door for freedom and free expression as a condition for lifting the embargo on the Iraqi people. Describing this demand as ridiculous, Yousef Damra said that it is the United States which is depriving the Iraqi people of bread, medicine and milk and showing total disrespect and disregard to the Iraqi people's human rights. It is most outrageous to hear Washington making such a demand at a time when the whole world sees that the U.S. is intent on starving the Iraqi population, said the writer, who added that the ordinary Americans might believe the lies told to them by their leaders but the world at large realise the facts and so it is clear that the United States stands alone against lifting the embargo.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Failure to attract investment calls for soul-searching

WE SHOULD admit that all our economic development plans, and all our successive laws to encourage investments, failed to attract meaningful direct foreign investments. Yet we are still trying hard through conducting a large scale overhaul operation on our tax laws, with a view to improving the climate for Arab and foreign investors, hoping that the new laws may work.

The economic summit, scheduled to place here in Amman during the last three days of October, is another occasion which is being used to spread fresh hopes that foreign investments, which were waiting for peace, will now flow to the country. We are afraid that these hopes are unfounded and will end up in yet another disappointment.

The government went to Casablanca conference in 1994 with a lot of heavy weight projects; the estimated costs of which are over \$18 billion. It returned from Casablanca empty handed. Not one project was successfully sold, or was able to attract partners or financiers.

This time the government grew more realistic and humble. It prepared less projects which may cost around \$3.5 billion. This means that the size of the disappointment will be smaller, as the outcome of the second conference, as far as foreign investments in Jordan are concerned, may not differ from the first.

Some soul-searching is called for. We should ask ourselves about the reasons for failure to attract direct foreign investments, and whether the reasons have changed. Of course there is a new positive factor, namely the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, which made Jordan a safer place and should convince hesitating foreign investors to proceed. But we were extremely unlucky in timing. Peace came when foreign investments in the developing countries were withdrawing at the speed of 10 per cent a month.

The economic crisis in Mexico, which erupted in December 1994, reversed the global investment trends. It convinced foreign investors of the industrialised countries that the apparent success of economic adjustment in the Third World countries, under the auspices of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and its blessing, did not immunise those countries against sudden collapse. The bubble burst in Mexico, despite the fact that its economic performance was described as a miracle, and despite the extensive flow of foreign investment. Mexico egged a

When President Bill Clinton was in Amman last October, he addressed Parliament and solemnly committed America "not to let us down." Well, he is letting us down.

chain of collapse, or near collapse, in all Latin American countries, and consequently in the whole Third World. Foreign investments which flooded the so-called emerging markets is being withdrawn irregularly.

During 1994, several foreign investment funds applied to the government for approval to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in Amman stock-exchange. The government, as expected, hesitated for a long time, but finally gave its approval. The funds did not bother to respond. The mood of foreign investors has already changed, and their perception of investment opportunities in Jordan, as well as in all other developing countries, was altered under the impact of the Mexican crisis.

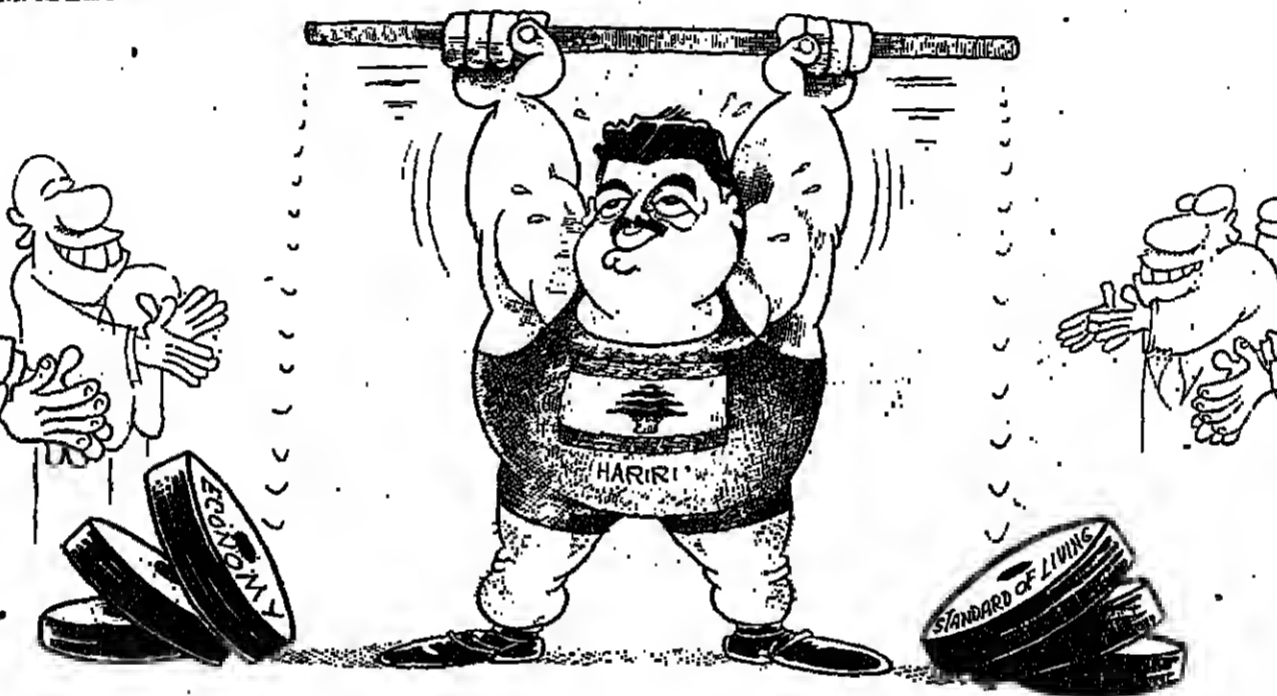
Foreign investments are desirable. They deserve encouragement and meaningful incentives. We must do all that we can to remove all obstacles that are removable, but it is not wise to expect much, or to formulate our strategy based on the assumption that foreign private sector's investments are coming.

What we badly need is public funds in the form of grants and soft loans. Promises by friendly governments that their private sector will fill the gap should not be entertained. They are the equivalent of saying we are not ready to help.

When President Bill Clinton was in Amman last October, he addressed Parliament and solemnly committed American "not to let us down." Well, he is letting us down.

The claim by the Jordanian officials and IMF experts that the Jordanian economy is now growing at over five per cent could be a straight lie. The growth rate of the Jordanian economy at the moment is either negative or zero at best. This is of course my personal estimate. No one else dares to make this estimate. In the absence of accurate statistics, I claim to have the best guess in town.

M. KAHIL



With cold war over, U.S.-China ties suffer

By George Gedda
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich wants to recognise Taiwan, Sen. Jesse Helms wants to strip China of trade benefits. The House voted last week to send an ambassador to Tibet, which China considers part of its territory.

Staking out stridently anti-Chinese positions is becoming more common these days now that the anti-Soviet glue that used to bind Beijing and Washington together is no longer there.

The prior need to confront the Soviets produced a culture of caution in the two capitals, with both acting to ensure the relationship remained stable.

"There isn't that strategic convergence that we had when the Soviets were around," says Helmut Sonnenfeldt, of the Brookings Institution.

Treating Sino-American ties with disdain is not limited to members of Congress. President Bill Clinton, not wanting to stray too far from the pro-Taiwan congressional consensus, reversed longstanding policy in May when he granted a visa to Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui to visit Cornell University, his alma mater.

The Chinese, in turn, have shown their defiance on a whole host of issues, including the arrest of a prominent Chinese-American dissident and its suspected secret missile deals with Iran and Pakistan.

'Anti-Americanism is back in style in China as part of an ongoing leadership struggle...The Chinese seem prepared to believe the worst about the U.S.'

"At the moment, Sino-American relations are in a free fall," former secretary of state Henry A. Kissinger said.

Nancy Bernkopf Tucker, history professor at Georgetown University, says China is an inviting target for newly empowered congressional Republicans who enjoy spouting anti-Communist rhetoric, making life uncomfortable for Mr. Clinton.

She believes anti-Americanism is back in style in Beijing as part of an ongoing leadership struggle. China's senior leader, Deng Xiaoping, 90, architect of China's economic reforms, has not been seen in public for well over a year, and his health is the subject of constant rumours.

"In the midst of a power struggle, it's hard to be seen as soft on anyone," said Tucker. Mr. Clinton administration officials are hopeful that the relationship will stabilise once the leadership question is resolved.

Meanwhile, the Chinese seem prepared to believe the worst about the United States. Several analysts said Republican Sen. John McCain fed paranoia in

Beijing by saying that the U.S. decision last week to normalise relations with Vietnam will help counter Chinese power in Asia.

The administration insists the decision was motivated by other factors, such as obtaining an accounting of American servicemen still missing from the Vietnam war.

In hopes of easing strains, the administration has appealed repeatedly for high-level talks with China. The next opportunity will occur when Secretary of State Warren Christopher will be in Beijing two weeks from now at the same time as Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. Mr. Qian has yet to reply to Mr. Christopher's invitation for a meeting.

From China's viewpoint, the biggest irritant was Mr. Clinton's decision to grant a visa to Taiwanese President Lee, defying Chinese efforts to isolate the leadership on what Beijing considers to be a renegade province.

The administration has stressed repeatedly that the visa decision does not alter the U.S. view that Taiwan is part of China. Privately, officials say it is doubtful that Mr. Lee will be given a

visa for a return visit even though he has invitations from several members of Congress.

If Mr. Clinton's decision in May to issue a visa to Mr. Lee angered China, it flabbergasted members of his administration.

"We were all stunned," an official said, recalling all the prior statements that the visa would not be issued because of concern over the reaction in Beijing.

Less than two weeks after Mr. Lee made his visit, China arrested Harry Wu, a naturalised American citizen who spent 19 years in a Chinese prison for his "rightist" views. He was taken into custody as he crossed the border into western China and has since been charged with illegally obtaining state secrets and other crimes. The administration, mindful that Mr. Lee has influential admirers in Congress and elsewhere, has been demanding his release.

China has not done so but a Foreign Ministry spokesman hinted Thursday at the possibility of leniency when he urged the United States to "adopt a patient attitude and wait to see the result of investigations."

Bosnia: Theories of conspiracy

By G.H. Jansen

TWO DISTINCT views of the events in Bosnia seem to have emerged in the last two weeks, ever since the Bosnian Serbs began their offensive against the U.N. "safe havens" of Srebrenica and Gorazde and launched the latest round of "ethnic cleansing."

The first holds that these events, though undoubtedly tragic, are deeply rooted in history, complex and complicated and, therefore, not easy to understand. But this view is true only if those events are seen as discrete happenings, one thing after the other, mostly or wholly due to happenstance, a combination of accident, inexperience and ignorance, and not as part of a single overall plan or scenario. According to this view, the helplessness of the U.N. and the West in the face of flagrant Serb aggression and "ethnic cleansing" is due to a lack of leadership or of a popular mandate to intervene forcefully, to inaptitude, even cowardice, but is not part of a grand design.

However, increasing numbers of people have begun to believe increasingly in a second scenario which goes something like this: Some time ago the Western powers in Europe — France, Britain, Germany and perhaps others, with the U.S. in the wings — decided that they did not want a Muslim state and potentially an Islamic state — to be established in the southeastern Europe in the area of Bosnia, even if the majority of the population there was Muslim; and that they would frustrate and defeat any attempt to achieve any such project.

And since the Western European outsiders would need a local ally they would have to rely on the Serbs, fanatically opposed to the Muslim state idea, to stand against and, hopefully, defeat and subjugate the Bosnian Muslims.

Those who deny the existence of this cynical scenario argue that the West would not be guilty of anything so "Machiavellian," meaning wicked and deceitful (though it is unfair and even inaccurate to ascribe such qualities to the ideas of a serious political analyst).

But why should the rejection of a Muslim state in Europe be described as "Machiavellian," because there are perfectly good reasons why the Westerners should oppose such a thing. A Muslim state in Christian Europe would be the odd-man-out, sticking out like a sore thumb and bound to be the cause of divisions, suspicions, misunderstanding and perhaps even hostilities.

To make matters worse, from the point of view of the West, the Muslim countries are in a state of turmoil under pressure from militant Muslims so there could be no way of being certain that a Muslim Bosnia would not go the way of Algeria, or Afghanistan. In fact "Afghans" (Mujahadeen fighters from the Afghan civil war) are actually helping their religiousists in Bosnia. A Muslim state in Europe could greatly encourage Islamic anti-governmental militancy in Turkey, the Central Asian republics, Egypt and Algeria, as well as among Muslim communities in Western countries, all of which would be most unwelcome to the Christian West.

To achieve their aim in Bosnia the Western powers, from the start of the troubles, that is following the dissolution of Yugoslavia, innocently proclaimed neutrality between all sides in ex-Yugoslavia, thus ostensibly equating Serbs with Croats and Bosnian Muslims: which by itself

could be seen as an abdication of moral responsibility.

In order to project and protect their policy, the Western powers needed active agents on the scene so, very quickly, Britain and France sent in contingents of troops, placed under the auspices of the U.N. But the U.N., and particularly its all-powerful Security Council, is dominated by its Western permanent members and so is quite "safe." But Anglo-French troops in UNPROFOR, besides being protectors of a humanitarian programme, were in effect hostages to prevent effective military action against the Serbs by any other party; for whenever any such action was mooted cries of protest went up that this would endanger the lives of the Western soldiers on the ground. And the Serbs turned the Western troops' presence to their advantage by threatening to take these troops hostage if ever NATO took air action.

NATO, another "safe" Western instrument was brought in to help the Western dominated U.N. Yet U.N. and UNPROFOR seemed to be doing entirely the right thing when they brought into existence the U.N. "safe havens" for the threatened Croats and Muslims menaced by the superior military strength of the Serbs. But these so-called "safe havens" have turned out to be traps for innocent civilians. For when the Serbs were set up and UNPROFOR promised to give safety and protection they drew into them the threatened communities who subsequently discovered, when it was too late, that the forces deployed there lacked protective power.

In all fairness it must be said that when the Serbs were being set up the military men pointed out that over 20,000 troops would be needed to provide effective protection, but only about 1,000 were actually made available. So we have seen "safe havens" being protected pro forma by penny packets of U.N. troops of a few dozen or at most a few hundred men being easily overrun by the Serbs.

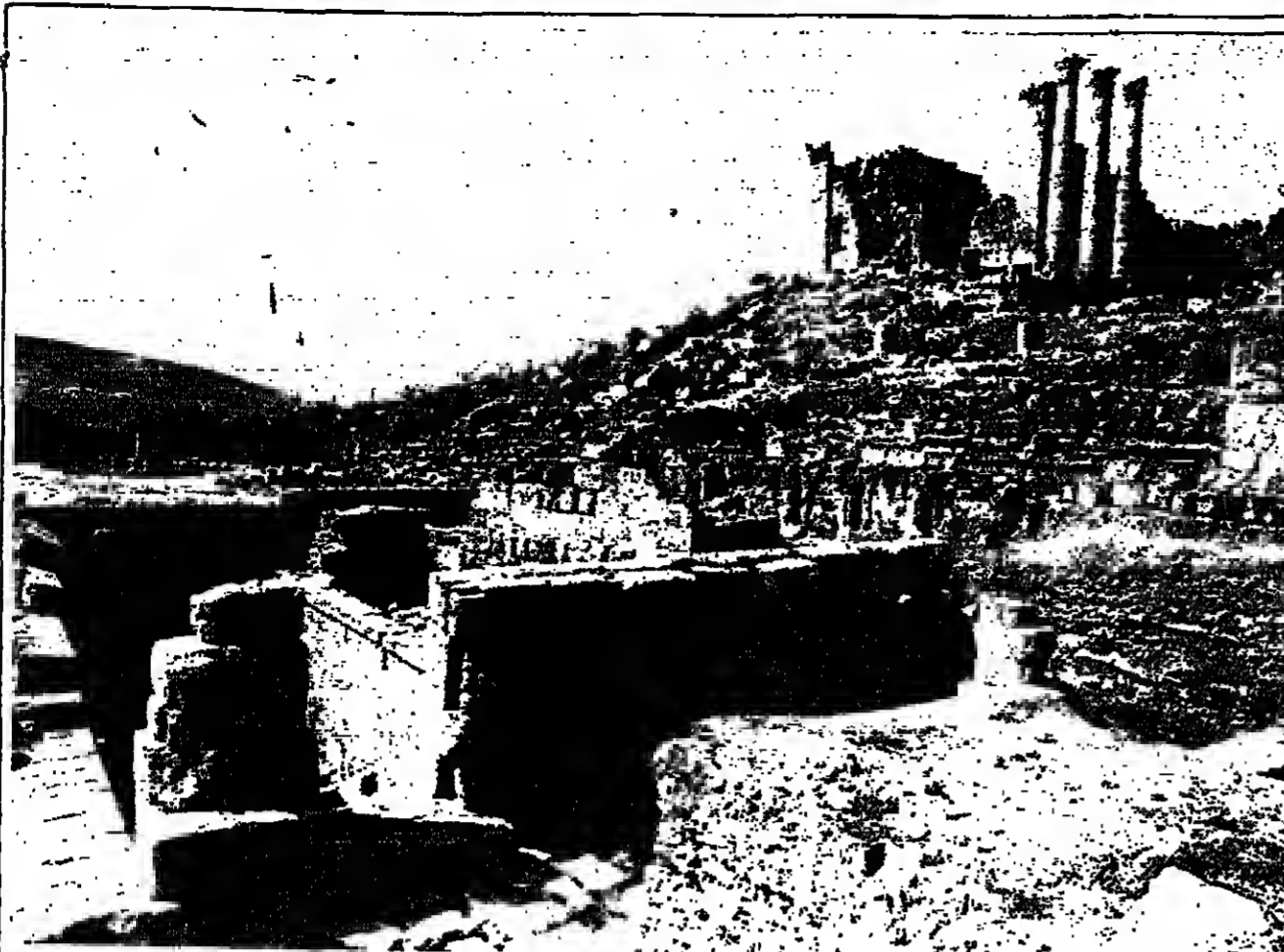
The "safe havens" were traps in yet another way. Once the Croats and Muslims were in the "safe havens" they were told that they no longer needed the protection of their heavy weapons and these were taken away from them by the U.N. The same was done to the Serb side, but whenever the Serbs claimed to need such weapons, they poised them back which the other communities were not in a position to do.

If the "happenstance" explanation of events in Bosnia is accepted then those events are indeed tragic and a shame to the Western powers, to the United Nations and to the basic principles of humanity and justice.

But if the scenario of no Muslim state and no action against the Serbs is accepted as valid then Bosnia events are a splendid success, a victory for the West, because the danger of an Islamic Bosnian state has been totally dispersed, thanks to the Serbs.

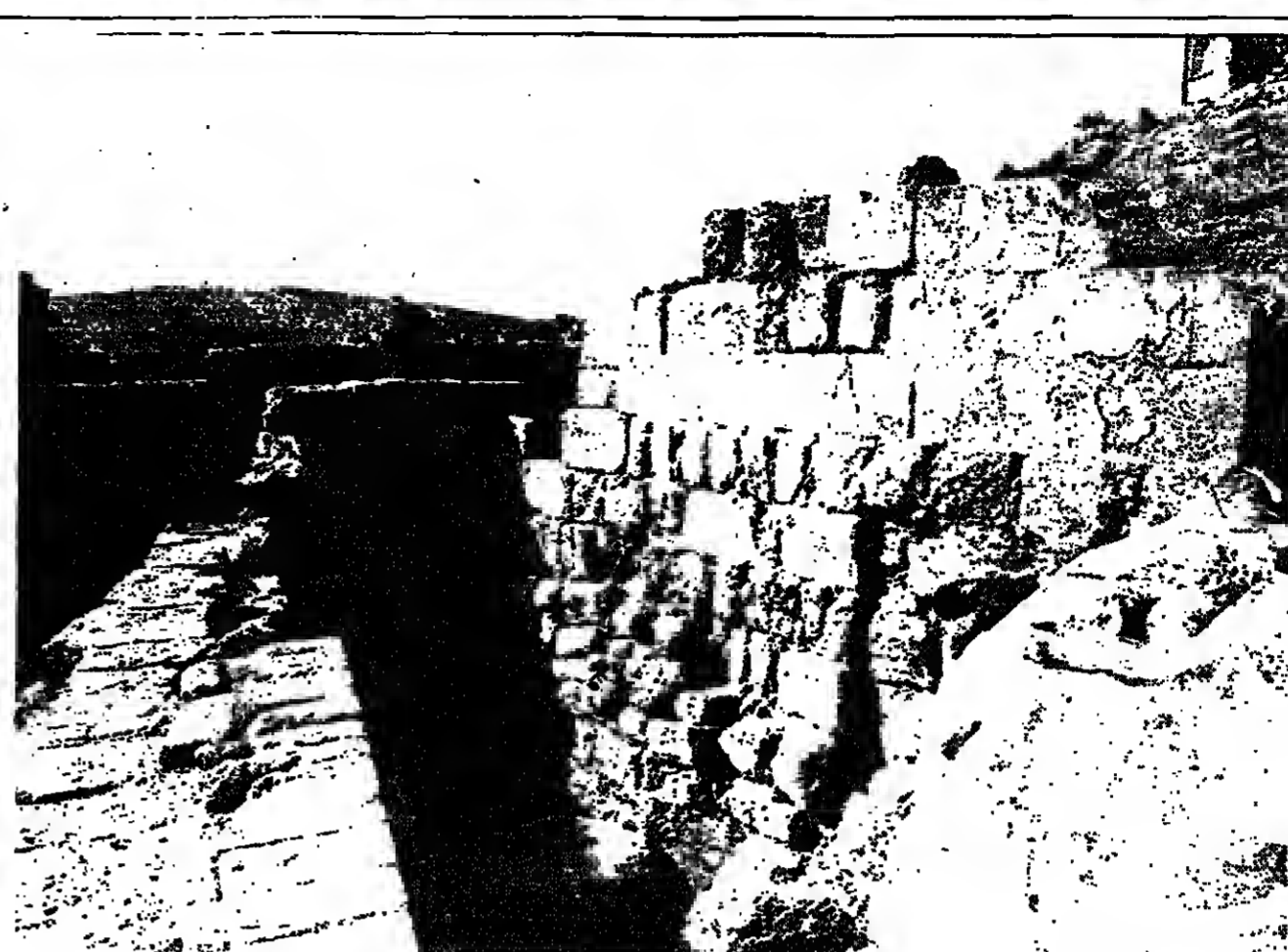
The fact that increasing numbers of people are beginning to believe in the second scenario was demonstrated on Wednesday, July 19, when one of the "quality" daily newspapers in London published several letters to the editor and the newspaper put this heading above them: "Does the West really want the Muslims driven out of Europe?" In view of what has been happening and still is happening in Bosnia, the only likely answer to the question is "most probably, yes."

JORDAN TIMES
TEL: 667171



The Temple of Zeus on the summit of the hill in the top right of photo; in the foreground, the excavated

remains of the altar/temple adjacent to the Iron Age "oracle" cave.



A close-up view of a wall (right side of photo) from the original early 1st century BC altar, with visible remains of plaster. The entrance to the "oracle" cave

is in the dark portion of the photo at the base of the wall (photos by Rami Khouri)

Emperors, gods, revolts and political retribution: Reconstructing the architectural and political history of Jerash

This is the first of a two-part series. The second part will appear in tomorrow's newspaper.

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

DESPITE ITS many splendid monuments and the considerable historical information they convey, the Greco-Roman city of Jerash has maintained mysteries that have challenged scholars for over a century. Why was the massive Temple of Artemis complex never completed? Why did the Roman city have two major temples, for Zeus and Artemis? Why was the Oval Plaza, often incorrectly referred to as the forum, constructed in such a peculiar shape of a skewed oval? Why were the city's walls never extended south to link up with Hadrian's Arch?

After more than 13 years of excavations and historical analysis of the site, French archaeologist and architect Jacques Seigne has come up with a hypothesis that may explain some of these mysteries — while also clarifying important phases of the city's earliest years in the Hellenistic period. His theory comprises captivating tales of local political revolts and intrigues, persistent ethnic and religious rivalries, the interplay between politics and religion, and the influence of external imperial power. It is also an important example of how orderly, patient excavations can uncover architectural and other material remains that in turn can shed light on important political, cultural and economic developments in ancient times.

Happily for scholars and

interested laypeople, all of the excavations conducted under Mr. Seigne's supervision remain visible, in the area of the South Gate and the Temple of Zeus. The work has been undertaken by the French Archaeological Institute in the Middle East (IFAPE), which is funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities.

One of the most important questions Mr. Seigne has tried to answer is about the earliest phases of the Hellenistic settlement or town. The founding of Gerasa (Jerash's Roman name) by Hellenistic forces in the late 4th century B.C. is well known from literary references and indirect inferences from some later material evidence; but no architectural evidence of structures from the 4th/3rd centuries B.C. has ever been documented at the site.

Mr. Seigne, the acting director of the Amman office of the IFAPE, believes this is due to the fact that the modern region of north Jordan in that period was located in an unstable frontier zone that was constantly fought over by the two major local remnants of Alexander the Great's Hellenistic forces — the Ptolemies based in Egypt and the Seleucids based in Syria.

Jerash was not a logical site for a major military outpost, because of its poor

strategic position within a wide, shallow valley, surrounded by hills, in an unstable frontier region that was contested by Ptolemies and Seleucids for more than a century. There may have been a small Hellenistic garrison at Jerash, but no greater Hellenistic presence that would have left behind architectural remains.

The indigenous, non-Hellenistic local population that lived at the site occupied a small village or town on the hill that now houses the archaeological museum — across the Oval Plaza from the Temple of Zeus. The local Semite population called their settlement "Garshu."

When the Seleucids, under King Antiochus IV, achieved political and military dominance of this region in the 2nd century B.C., conditions were ripe for economic expansion and urban growth. The city of Jerash as we know it now was effectively "founded" in the 2nd century B.C. when its expanding Hellenistic population called it "Antioch on the Chrysorhoas" (the Chrysorhoas is the name of the stream that still runs through the city). The Hellenistic new arrivals in the city were wealthy enough to import goods from around the Eastern Mediterranean, as evidenced by stamped imported amphora storage and shipping jars.

Mr. Seigne believes that the new Hellenistic population that settled in Jerash by the mid-2nd century B.C. — a combination of Greeks and Hellenised people from Syria and Egypt — initially established themselves across the valley from the native Semite Garshutes, on the hill that now accommodates the

Zeus sanctuary. This may not have been haphazard decision, but rather a deliberate political statement and act.

The French team's recent excavations on the Zeus sanctuary lower terrace have uncovered — beneath several Hellenistic temples and altars — a high place and cave that may have been revered by the local Garshutes as a holy "oracle."

Iron Age levels were excavated inside the cave, and in front of it several layers of ash remains might reflect the use of the area for animal sacrifices. Burial caves from the Iron Age are known from other areas in the vicinity of the southern parts of the city, but this cave had no remains indicating burials. An Iron Age burnished bowl from the cave is very similar to Mesopotamian vessels that are depicted on Neo-Assyrian temple reliefs, usually held by women approaching a temple. It could be that the main cultic high place of pre-Hellenistic Garshu that honoured a female goddess (an Astarte, perhaps) was located on the museum hill, as part of the civilian settlement, and that this high place/cave was one of several other secondary cultic places that worshipped other Semite gods, such as Baal Shamim.

The newly dominant Seleucids appear to have respected the sanctity of the cave, and may have transformed it into a holy site where the Greek god Zeus was honoured alongside the cave/oracle's local Semite deity. The Hellenistic newcomers' political statement to the local Semites in the mid-2nd century B.C. would have been rather emphatic: We, the

new Seleucid powers in Garshu, have taken control of the oracle cave and have introduced the cult of Zeus alongside the existing Semite cults.

The new Seleucid population initially did not appear to have significantly altered the cave in the mid-2nd century B.C. They may have built simple walls around the cave to create a holy precinct, and they may have erected small altars dedicated to the cult of the "oracle." (One such altar was excavated and now stands amidst other stone pieces on the lower terrace platform today; its inscription includes a dedication — not to Zeus, but to the deity Verity (Truth), and it mentions a Syrian philosopher named Apollonius who is known to have lived at Jerash and to have given oracular information to the Emperor Hadrian upon the latter's visit to Jerash. Such circumstantial evidence strengthens the theory that the high place/cave may have served as an oracle).

By around 70 B.C., the former cave precinct had been embellished with a massive stone altar and an adjacent small temple, the 6 x 9-metre cella, or central chamber, of the temple was located directly above the cave.

The development of the Temple of Zeus Sanctuary starting in the mid-2nd century B.C. was the first major urban project undertaken by the Seleucid settlers at Jerash. In fact, for the nearly two and a half centuries from the mid-2nd century B.C. until 81 A.D. (when the South Theatre was built), no other monument has been firmly identified at Jerash except for the Zeus complex. The gradual expansion of the Zeus complex during this time

reflects rising political and economic power of its Seleucid patrons and followers who came to dominate life at Jerash after the 2nd century B.C.

The Zeus Temple complex was expanded and rebuilt several times in the period between the mid-2nd century B.C. and around 70 A.D., and these consecutive rebuildings have been well documented in the recent excavations. Before 50 B.C., the site accommodated the cave, a massive stone altar, and the small temple above the cave; remains of all three of these facilities can be seen today. The temple was decorated with painted and moulded stucco. It is not known precisely when before 50 B.C. these three facilities were first built. Based on parallels from similar temples in this region, Mr. Seigne thinks they may date from around 70/80 B.C., but this is more of an educated guess than a proven certainty.

Around 50 B.C., the temple/altar/cave complex was surrounded by a terrace whose shape was slightly smaller than the current terrace. The wall of this mid-1st century B.C. terrace can be seen only below ground level, from within the vaults that are now used during the Jerash Festival. Around 9/10 A.D., according to an inscription recently discovered, the west side of the terrace was vaulted to form a corridor. In 27/28 A.D., the terrace/courtyard was extended mainly to the north and east, the vaulted corridors were extended to all four sides, and a staircase was built giving access to the temple from the area of the Oval Plaza (though the plaza itself was not yet built).

An inscription mentions the name of the architect

who supervised this work, a certain Diodorus, son of Zebedas (note the combination of Hellenistic and Semite names, reflecting the synthesis of indigenous and imported foreign cultural traditions that has long characterised the cultures of the land of Jordan).

The next major change in the city's fortunes appears to take place around 70 A.D., which corresponds to the main political development in the region at that time — the first Jewish revolt against Roman rule in Palestine. A historical text by Flavius Josephus mentions that during the political and military battles between the ruling Romans and the local Jewish population, Jerash did not react to the Jewish revolt in the same manner as other cities.

In most of the cities of the region, local populations are reported to have sided with the Roman emperor and attacked or subdued their native Jewish populations. At Jerash, we are told by Josephus, the local population protected the Jews. The Roman emperor Vespasian may have interpreted the actions of the Jerash population as an anti-Roman stand, and thus his forces attacked and sacked the city. The supreme act of retribution against the people to Jerash would have been the destruction of their temple, a firm and harsh demonstration of who was in political control at that time.

Excavation evidence reveals burning and destruction levels from this time, and two inscriptions from Jerash note that local people financed the rebuilding of the Zeus sanctuary in 69/70 A.D. This is also affirmed by the excavations, which reveal a rebuilding of the temple complex at this time — but on a different axis than the Hellenistic temple, in order to align the temple with the terrace/courtyard. This new temple, with walls built of alternating white and pink limestone, has no known parallels anywhere in this region. It completely surrounded the earlier sacred facilities and acted more like an "envelope" enclosing them than a totally new cultic facility in its own right.

The South Theatre was built near the temple complex in the decade following 69/70 A.D., which marks the beginning of the urban expansion of the city in the late 1st century A.D. The rebuilt Zeus Temple continued to respect the sanctity of the earlier holy structures: from within the temple people could pass through two underground vaulted corridors to reach a room from which they could see the foundations of the previous temple and altar.

At the end 1st/early 2nd century A.D., the next major urban project was undertaken — the construction of the main colonnaded street of the city, the so-called Cardo, linking the north gate of the city with the Zeus Temple complex at its southern end. (This street at Jerash is not a true "cardo," which usually crossed the entire length of a city. This street links one end of the city with its temple — a typical characteristic of the synthesis between Semite and Greco-Roman urban layout). The North Gate was built in 115 A.D., and the peculiar shape of the Oval Plaza reflected the need to align the layout of the Cardo with the entrance to the temple — the main temple in the city at that time.

King urges firm stand

(Continued from page 1)

the world cares, that it is capable of making a stand." His Majesty said Jordan will respect the arms embargo imposed by the U.N. on the warring parties in the republic and called for a firm stand to be taken by the international community.

He said Jordan is concerned about the safety of its peace-keeping troops deployed in former

Yugoslavia, but nevertheless the kingdom was also concerned about the situation facing the U.N. and the international community.

"We are worried about our soldiers obviously, but we are worried that the challenge that the U.N. and the international community are facing... is a humiliation to everyone, to all that we represent everywhere."

Egyptian court

(Continued from page 1)

government has allowed it to function openly. Some of its members have even been elected to parliament under the banner of other opposition groups or as independents. Egypt's constitution prohibits political parties based on religion.

Among those whose detention was renewed is Essam Al Eryan, a doctor and Brotherhood leader who has openly

told reporters that he aimed to replace the government with an Islamic regime, albeit non-violently.

Mr. Hodeib said Al Eryan and other Brotherhood detainees have summoned their lawyers to work out a way for them to be nominated and run in the election as independents while in prison.

Zepa expected to fall

(Continued from page 1)

a day after the London conference of 16 nations involved in the international efforts in Bosnia called for Serb forces to withdraw from the safe area of Srebrenica on July 11.

A conference statement condemned the Serb attacks on Zepa and Srebrenica and said the Serbs faced a "substantial and decisive response" if they attack

Goazde, the third U.N. safe area in eastern Bosnia.

U.N. officials in Bosnia gave a cautious welcome Saturday to the conference warning but admitted they were unclear on how this would translate into action.

"It is important for us that the international community expressed its desire to deter attacks against U.N. safe

Chechenya talks

(Continued from page 12)

Rebels attacked federal troops' outposts in the Chechen capital, Grozny, overnight Saturday. Two rebel fighters were killed, Interfax said.

A Russian soldier was killed when rebels opened fire some 30 times throughout Chechenya, the agency said. The skirmishes were mainly in southern mountain villages, the rebels' strongholds. Eleven people were seriously wounded Friday when a passenger bus hit a

land mine in Yandy, southwest of Grozny, the Russian-backed provisional government reported.

ITAR-TASS said two civilians were badly wounded overnight when Russian troops shelled the village of Achkhoy-Martan, 25 kilometres southwest of Grozny.

The village also was the site of an anti-Russian rally protesting the mining of another has earlier in the week, ITAR-TASS said. Two people were killed in that incident, and 11 wounded.

areas," said Alexander Ivanko, a U.N. spokesman. Mr. Ivanko said peacekeepers in Bosnia would get more guidance once their commander, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith who attended the meeting in London, returned to Sarajevo Sunday.

The United Nations confirmed on Saturday that Serb forces from neighbouring Croatia and their rebel Muslim allies had gained some 130 square kilometres of territory in an offensive against the Bihać enclave, part of which is a U.N. safe area.

Frontlines to the west of Bihać, in northwest Bosnia, remained active but at much lower levels than in recent days, said Coward.

However, Croatia has moved a 2,000 troops nearer to frontlines, Zagreb has said further attacks on Bihać threaten its strategic interests.

In Sarajevo and convoys arrived in the Bosnian capital for the second day running after a break of more than a month. Several loud explosions were heard in the centre of the city before midday but there were no reports of casualties.

Meanwhile the United States pressed Saturday with plans for tough military action in Bosnia, brushing aside criticism that the London conference had not led to a strengthening of the West's resolve to stop Serb attacks.

President Bill Clinton was to meet with his top advisers later in the day including Secretary of State Warren Christopher who attended the conference on the worsening crisis in Bosnia, the White House said.

"We have a plan, and the NATO military committee is going to put the details on the... big air campaign," Defence Secretary William Perry said on his way back to Washington.

Under normal circumstances planning for the campaign would take around four days, but it could be accelerated "if something had happened" such as an attack by Bosnian Serb forces on the enclave of Gorazde, Mr. Perry said.

"We've got a very difficult road ahead of us," Mr. Perry said. "All I can say is, coming out of that meeting we're arm-in-arm trying to deal with these difficult problems. Were we not arm-in-arm, there would not be a

chance," he added.

At the White House, Mr. Clinton's aides stressed that the common ground reached in London would translate into action unlike previous threats that have had limited impact.

"I'm telling you, this is different," said National Security Adviser Anthony Lake. "This is very serious."

White House spokesman Michael McCurry described the White House talks as a "look at where we stand" rather than a decision-making meeting.

Mr. Perry sent aides directly to the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in Brussels for weekend talks that were to work out the details of the proposed air campaign.

The administration's resolve to toughen the international stand on Bosnia came as the Senate prepared to forge ahead with a resolution to unilaterally lift the arms embargo on Bosnia.

"Next week, the United States Senate will vote to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia once the U.N. forces have been withdrawn," Republican Senator Mitch McConnell said in a radio address. "This vote is about giving

the Bosnian people a chance. It is also about standing up for American principles of justice and fairness," he said.

The Republican-run Congress has maintained that lifting the arms embargo would allow Bosnian government troops to better defend themselves against the Bosnian Serbs who inherited the weapons of the former Yugoslav army.

Mr. Christopher said after the London talks broke up that "there will be no more pinprick strikes. If the Serbs are wise, the situation in Bosnia will be stabilised. If they choose to attack Gorazde, they will suffer very gravely."

Senior U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the "dual-key" system — whereby both NATO and the United Nations must agree to military action — had been modified to circumvent civilian U.N. officials, notably U.N. special envoy to the former Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi.

Military action is in the decided jointly by General Rupert Smith, commander of the U.N. Protection Force in Bosnia, and Admiral Leighton Smith, commander of NATO forces in southern Europe.

Economy

Banks frustrate West Bank Palestinians; deposits do not translate into local loans

By Amy Dockser Marcus
Wall Street Journal

RAMALLAH, West Bank — At a conference on the Palestinian economy, Mohammad Nashashibi, finance minister of the Palestinian National Authority, bitterly attacked the banks that recently began operating in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The banks, he charged, are "sucking deposits out of the country without participating in building infrastructure or encouraging investment."

Mr. Nashashibi's harsh words are a far cry from the high hopes that greeted the banks when they opened following the 1993 Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organization peace accord. Creating a modern banking system is a key element in the development of a strong Palestinian economy. But Palestinian economists say the vast majority of the deposits collected since the signing of the accord have been transferred out of the country, primarily to the banks' home offices in Jordan. Economist Moham-

mad Sarsour estimates the total drain to be at least \$300 million.

"We are looking for the banks to be the backbone of the Palestinian economy," says Mr. Sarsour, vice president of Bir Zeit University in Ramallah. "They are key players. If they invest here, they give others the confidence to invest. But instead of the money being invested in Palestinian territory, it is being deposited outside the country."

When the Israelis captured the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 war, they shut down the 33 bank branches then operating there. Since then, the Palestinians kept their savings at home, relying on the local money-changer for any banking needs.

The Nablus branch of the Cairo-Amman Bank of Jordan was reopened in 1986 under the joint supervision of the Israeli and Jordanian central bank to help redress the situation. Today, following an Israeli-Jordanian agreement permitting Jordanian banks to reopen branches in the West Bank, there are

now eight banks with 23 branches operating in the West Bank, including in cities still under Israeli control. All but two are Jordanian-owned.

The added competition has made some difference. When Cairo-Amman had the field to itself, it gave zero interest on deposits; now many banks offer 5 per cent interest. Customer service has improved. But for Palestinian business people, it is still difficult to obtain loans and letters of credit, problems the reopened banks were supposed to alleviate.

"A businessman with a well-known family can get a loan, but for a starting entrepreneur, it's very difficult," says Riyadh Al Suleh, a prominent Ramallah businessman who owns the Al Suleh Furniture Factory. "Loans for more than 24 months are exceptional and you still can't get a letter of credit unless you're willing to put up all the money."

Bank officials are aware of the criticism, but say the situation is the result of political instability and the lack of a developed capital mar-

ket. At a Jerusalem roundtable sponsored by the Israel/Palestine Centre for Research and Information, Cairo-Amman's deputy regional manager, Mahmoud Al Takruri, conceded that many deposits had been transferred to Jordan but defended his bank's loan record. "The Cairo-Amman Bank, I admit, did not invest that much because of the situation and because we lost so many loans," he said. "But we invested quite a good amount for the situation we are living in."

Bankers and economists cited a range of problems that are hampering development of the banking system. There are no money markets or capital-market instruments that would facilitate long-term loans. Banks have almost no way to collect collateral in case of default, no registration system for real estate exists, and loan requests can take as long as three months to process because of the need for intensive scrutiny by banks that want assurances they will get their money back. Above all, it's easier for Jordanian

banks to find good investment opportunities in Jordan than in the West Bank.

Gad Marx, an official at the Bank of Israel, the central bank, says that for the time being, the banks have no choice but to transfer the funds to Jordan. Only Jordanian banks, he says, will pay interest on Jordanian-dinar deposits. So until investment opportunities in the territories increase and bank fears over repayment are eased, "for banks in the West Bank to pay a fair interest rate to their customers, the only alternative is the Jordanian system," says Mr. Marx.

The newly formed Palestinian Monetary Authority says it plans to require banks to reveal deposit transactions and financial dealings on a monthly basis to ensure that more money is invested locally. In the meantime, says Mr. Al Suleh, "even with all these new banks here, for now I still rely mainly on Israeli banks for my banking needs," and so do most businessmen that I know."

World Bank urges Yemen to speed up economic reform

SANAA (RY) — A World Bank official has said aid to Yemen could triple if economic reforms are carried out speedily, but has warned Sanaa not to expect more support if implementation of bank-financed projects is delayed.

Caio Koch-Weser, a vice-president of the bank in charge of the Middle East and North Africa, has told a news conference in Sanaa: "I am optimistic of the current economic reforms adopted by the Yemeni government."

He pledged backing for increased World Bank aid. "In fact our contribution to Yemen's strong reform effort could more than triple in the next three years compared to last three years."

Mr. Koch-Weser, who arrived in Sanaa last week, gave no figures.

Sanaa last March increased the price of petrol and services following talks with the bank and the International Monetary Fund on economic reforms, including ways of curbing its budget deficit.

Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani has said the measures helped cut the forecast 1995 deficit to 35 billion rials

(\$700 million) from 62 billion rials (\$1.25 billion) at the official rate of 30 rials to the dollar.

Mr. Koch-Weser said: "The may budget is beginning to show some positive results and confidence in Yemen is being restored." The Yemeni government should continue the reforms programme and made no further delay of the implementation of projects financed by the World Bank," he added.

He said Yemen could not expect more support while \$300 million had still not been spent.

Mr. Koch-Weser said that he felt a strong commitment by the Yemeni government to expand the economic reform programme.

"To maintain the momentum, it would be necessary to implement its programme speedily and with strong up-front actions."

Japanese oil imports from Oman fall

MUSCAT (AFP) — Japan slashed its oil imports from Oman by nearly 27 per cent in the first five months of 1995 while Thailand more than doubled crude purchases from the Gulf state, an official report has said.

Japan imported around 230,000 barrels per day (b/d) of Omani oil during that period compared with nearly 313,000 b/d during the first five months of 1994, said the report, carried by the official Omani news agency.

But Japan remained the top oil client of Oman, receiving around 35 per cent of its total crude exports in the first five months of 1995.

Thailand's crude imports from Oman jumped to around 118,000 b/d from 45,000 b/d during the same period while South Korea's purchases declined to around 107,000 b/d from 123,000 b/d, according to the report.

It showed Oman's total crude oil exports dropped to nearly 666,000 b/d in the first months of 1995 from 736,000 b/d in the same period of 1994.

Oman pursues reforms to ease reliance on oil

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf state of Oman marks the anniversary of its ruler this week as it presses ahead with reforms to tackle financial problems and fortify its economy against the fluctuation of oil prices.

Officials said Oman, which on Sunday celebrates the 25th year of reign by Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said, had made progress in its drive to expand the non-oil sector and would press ahead with privatisation and other reforms.

"We have achieved positive results from the reform programmes. You can see such results in the growth in the non-oil sector and the increase in local and foreign investment," said Mahmoud Jarwani, director of the Muscat Bourse.

"We are pushing ahead with such programmes according to a studied timetable. We have sold some institutions to the private sector and there are multi-billion-dollar projects to be established as joint government-private ventures," he told AFP from Muscat on Saturday.

Mr. Jarwani listed a petrochemical project worth around \$700 million and two sewage treatment plants at a cost of around \$750 million.

A major power project is also on the cards while a similar venture has already been launched. It involves setting up a power station in the central region of Minah at a cost of around \$70 million.

"These projects have been found feasible and approved. But we are studying hundreds of applications for investment in various fields, including industry, agriculture, tourism, fishing and mining," Mr. Jarwani said.

Oman launched reforms in the past five years, with the sale of five public institutions and plans to privatise other facilities. The latest privatisation involved the state-owned Oman Cement Company, which has just finalised a deal with a Japanese firm to dou-

ble production capacity.

The reforms also included allowing foreigners to trade in the stock market, free interest rates, introducing new incentives for investors and permitting foreigners to fully own some projects, mainly in the non-oil industry.

"We have prepared studies for major mining projects to be carried out jointly with the private sector," an Omani oil ministry official said. "They include exploitation of gypsum, copper and other elements in the country."

In an earlier interview, Mr. Jarwani said the reforms had attracted around \$520 million in 1994 and between \$650 million and \$750 million were expected to be invested this year. He said investment would increase in the coming years due to an expected economic upturn.

Oman is about to launch its fifth development plan, which will focus on economic diversification, according to officials.

A study prepared by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency at the request of the Omani government envisaged spending of between \$1.35 billion and \$2 billion on industrial projects during the 1996-2000 plan to attain a growth rate in the non-oil sector of 13-18 per cent. It also proposed investing between \$3.2 billion and \$6 billion in the following development plan to realise a growth rate of 16-21 per cent.

Oman produces around 800,000 barrels per day of oil and weak crude prices have created deficits in its budget and balance of payments, triggering a reform drive and forcing it to cut expenditure.

But officials expect a surge in revenues when two major gas projects are commissioned. They include an eight-billion-dollar liquefaction plant with an output capacity of six million tonnes per year and an underwater pipeline to supply India with nearly 30 million tonnes of natural gas per day.

Kuwaitis shun sacrifice for economy — survey

KUWAIT (RI) — Most Kuwaitis oppose making sacrifices to help the government eliminate its budget deficit, even though they know the shortfall could damage their way of life, according to a survey published on Saturday.

A poll of 301 Kuwaitis conducted by Al Sayassah newspaper showed 82 per cent opposed the introduction of unspecified measures of economic stringency to help balance the government's books, with 11 per cent in favour and seven with no comment.

Fifty-three per cent of the sample rejected the notion of making a "sacrifice" to help reduce the deficit, with 37 per cent in favour and no response from the remaining 11 per cent.

A majority of 72 per cent, however, said they would pay higher fees for some public utilities to help raise government revenue.

Economists say persistent deficits that soured after Kuwait's 1991 Gulf war liberation from Iraqi occupation are slowly eating away Kuwait's main investment reserves, now around \$35 billion and down from around \$100 billion pre-war.

Kuwait ran a deficit of 1.465 billion dinars (\$4,899 billion) in the fiscal year 1993/94 (July/June), equivalent to a fifth of the gross domestic product. The government forecasts a gap of 1.5 billion dinars (\$5 billion) in 1994/95.

It plans to eliminate the shortfall by the year 2000 by privatising state shares in Kuwaiti companies and some government services, cutting spending on major projects and imposing or raising fees for a wide range of services.

The newspaper said 57 per cent of respondents agreed the deficit would harm all aspects of life, while 33 per cent said the deficit would damage only the economy and 10 per cent believed it would damage only unspecified social issues.

Forty-four per cent were optimistic about the future of the economy, 46 per cent were doubtful about its future and 10 per cent were clearly pessimistic.

In other responses, a majority of the sample said the government could balance its books by pursuing privatisation and by introducing bond financing. Most said the deficit was the result of Iraq's occupation.

World oil prices drop to 10-month lows

LONDON (RI) — World oil prices collapsed to 10-month lows on Friday, pressured by surplus Iranian barrels and healthy U.K. North Sea supplies.

London September futures for North Sea Benchmark Brent blend sank to \$15.45 a barrel, the front month's lowest level since last September before recouping some lost ground to close at \$15.58, down one cent on the day.

Analysts were not at a loss to explain the market's drop. "It's been well flagged there's a lot of sour crude around and also rising production from the North Sea with maintenance programmes over," said Paribas capital markets energy analyst Philip Morgan.

U.S. President Bill Clinton's own U.S. trade with Iran is beginning to bite. Iran has managed to place no more than 150,000 barrels per day (b/d) in extra crude with European buyers since early June when the ban took effect.

Before the ban, U.S. oil companies were lifting 500,000 b/d of Iranian crude. Shipping brokers say Iran has spot chartered over 10 large tankers to take oil West, fuelling speculation in the Trading community it is having difficulty placing crude.

But the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) denies there is any problem. "We had a hiccup 15 to 20 days ago, but now everything is running smoothly," said a NIOC official.

Meanwhile, supplies of North Sea crudes are also depressing the market. U.K.

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Russia, Libya sign trade deal

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia and Libya signed trade and technical cooperation accords here Saturday worth some \$1.5 billion including Russian help for Libya's embargo-hit oil industry.

Interfax news agency said that under the deal, signed by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Davydov and Libyan Energy Minister Abdulhazim Saleh Al Badri, Russian companies will help build oil and gas pipelines, power stations and electric power lines in Libya.

A Russian-Libyan joint investment company, the first of its kind, will also be set up to invest Libyan capital in Russia.

Mr. Davydov said economic ties had "cooled" about 25 years ago because of the debt Libya owed to the former Soviet Union, amounting to \$2.4 billion, "but the problem has been resolved."

Mr. Davydov said international sanctions against Libya "have no particularly firm foundations," and he praised the new economic deal as "paving the way to the res-

toration of economic, cultural and trade ties."

"We fully support Libya's striving to have the sanctions lifted," Mr. Davydov said.

Mr. Badri also met Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on Saturday.

Earlier this month U.S. President Bill Clinton called for tougher international sanctions against Libya, indicating a global oil embargo may be needed.

The U.N. Security Council imposed an air and arms embargo on Libya in 1992, to force Tripoli to hand over two men whom Britain and the United States insist were involved in the bombing of a Pan-Am 747 airliner over Scotland in 1988.

In December 1993 the U.N. also imposed a freeze on Libyan assets held overseas and sanctions on oil-related equipment. However, the freeze does not affect profits from oil sales.

On July 12 Mr. Clinton said new probes had uncovered evidence that the current sanctions had been violated.

Senate calls on reporters to disclose incomes

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. Senate has targeted journalists who cover the nation's politics by passing a resolution that requires them to disclose their financial information.

The non-binding resolution, passed Thursday by a vote of 61 to 39, called for a measure to be approved this year that would force journalists to list their financial status.

Members of the press who refuse to declare their salaries and other sources of income could be refused accreditation to Capitol Hill.

The proposal, by Democratic Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia, came in response to criticism that journalists were earning handsome sums of money from guest appearances on panels, speaking engagements, and other commercial ventures.

Several news organisations including The Washington Post, Time Magazine, and the ABC television network have barred reporters from accepting outside income from private businesses or special interest groups.

The chairman of the association representing the 6,700 journalists accredited to Congress denounced the measure, saying: "This is clearly an assault on freedom of the press."

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CROSSWORDS NOT RECEIVED

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JULY 23, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Forget those ideas of taking revenge on others who have hurt you today, but rise above it all. Establish more harmony at home.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Both you and partner are in the mood to change agreements reached, but time is not right today, so stand pat.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) There are many tasks to be completed so get rid of that feeling of resentment and then you get good results with it.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get busy on some creative matter today and forget about amusements which only waste your time and money.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Prevent arguments at home which could cause much trouble today, and don't react to some careless word which may be uttered.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good day to be whatever you can be inspired and can become more cheerful, it's important you walk or drive with care.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Take care you do not do something foolish today where your possessions are concerned, though others may try to pressure you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A feeling of frustration may have you confused so don't run off on any tangents you could later regret.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Try to look at any problematical affairs you may have today from the standpoint of being stepping stones to greater success.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't come to a quick decision about something which means a great deal to you or it could bring trouble later today.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't take any risks in outside affairs or you can get into real trouble today, so safeguard your good name.

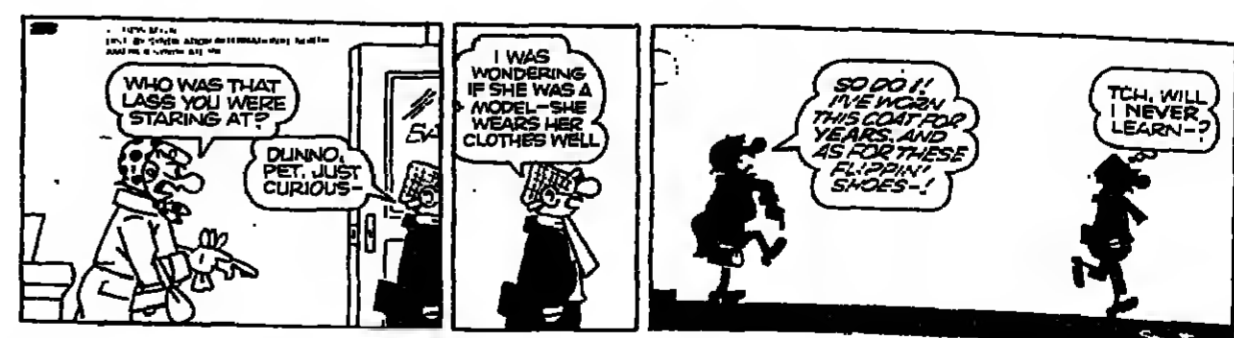
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You want to make all kinds of changes, even in your philosophy of life, but it is best to stand firm today.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



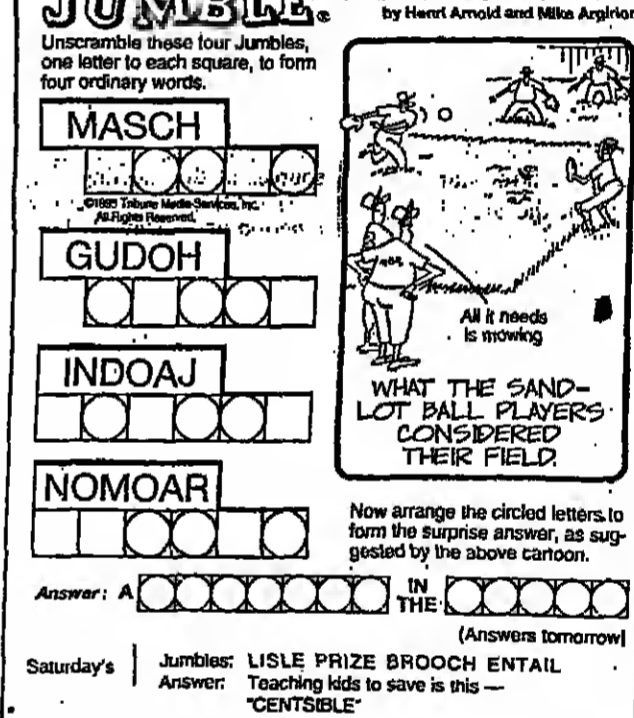
THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Bus
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Business Daily Boat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Feasibility studies on operating Marka airport under way

Serious studies are under way to examine the feasibility of operating flights from the Amman airport in Marka to neighbouring states, Royal Jordanian (RJ) Chief Executive Officer Nader Al Dahabi said. Mr. Dahabi said RJ plans to operate two small, 50-passenger aircraft to serve on close destinations. He said RJ will lease the two planes as soon as the feasibility studies are concluded, noting that the two planes will constitute the nucleus of a fleet of small planes RJ plans to have. He said the peace era requires such small aircraft to operate on regional routes (Al Rai).

Land prices in south Amman rose tangibly as investors now prefer it over other areas because of its location near the airport and on the road linking Amman with the port city of Aqaba, according to Hisham Addasi, owner of a real estate office. Mr. Addasi said real estate traders started to focus on the area in mid-1994 because of the high profits they can reap in land deals. He said the price of a dunum of land in Al Qastal area now fetches JD 10,000, while before the Gulf crisis the price of a dunum was less than JD 1,000. He said prices of land in south Amman vary in accordance with their proximity to the airport road. He said the anticipated tourism projects had contributed to raising land prices in various parts of the Kingdom. For instance, Mr. Addasi said, a dunum of land near the ancient city of Petra sells at JD 1 million. He said a dunum of land in the Dead Sea area can be sold for JD 5,000-6,000, while before it was about JD 200-300. According to Mr. Addasi, land prices near the northern border crossing point between Jordan and Israel rose by 1,000 per cent in recent months (Al Aswaq).

Director General of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company Mohammad Dalabih said the company transported 396,726 passengers between Aqaba and the Egyptian port of Nuweibeh in the first half of 1996. Mr. Dalabih said the company's ferries also transported 25,392 vehicles during the same period, when it operated 717 trips. He said since the company started operating two large ferries on the Aqaba-Nuweibeh route two weeks ago, it transported 71,000 passengers. He said the company is planning to expand its operations and open new routes to brace for developments which are expected to sweep the region in the era of peace and the expected thaw in inter-Arab relations. He noted that the Red Sea ports have already started to witness intense traffic and competition, especially between the Saudi port of Dhabaa and Safaja in Egypt (Al Rai).

Iran cuts deal with South Africa on oil storage

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran's state-run oil company has reached agreement with South Africa to store 15 million barrels of oil near Cape Town to speed up export delivery times to Europe and Latin America, Tehran Radio reported Saturday. The radio, monitored in Nicosia, termed the deal the first important agreement between the two countries since they restored relations last year after the demise of apartheid.

The South Africans currently buy some 60 to 70 per cent of their oil needs of 420,000 barrels a day from the Islamic republic. By dealing with Iran, they turned their backs on U.S. efforts to gather international backing for the trade and commerce ban the Clinton administration imposed on Iran June 4.

That was aimed at forcing Tehran to abandon its alleged support for international terrorism and its alleged clandestine drive to acquire nuclear weapons. Only Israel and Uzbekistan have so far joined the ban. The National Iranian Oil Co. and South Africa's Strategic Fuel Fund have been negotiating for months on Tehran leasing two of the six underground tanks, each with a capacity of 7.5 million barrels, at the Saldanha Bay storage complex. The storage facilities put Iranian crude exports within short-haul range of east African destinations, many of which can handle only small tankers.

The short voyage times to Latin America and Western Europe also allow Tehran to respond to short-term price fluctuations in those important markets as well. "The two sides will invest jointly in the venture and will both reap its benefits," the radio said. "It will mean that Iran will have access to the markets of Europe and Latin America irrespective of fluctuations in the price of oil or the demand for oil. With the oil agreement, trade relations between the two countries are once again taking shape and expanding," the radio said. "It is clear that this agreement will pave the way for the expansion of cooperation in other areas," it noted. The radio did not give details of the agreement. But the Middle East Economic Survey reported last month that the negotiations centred on setting up a joint-venture trading company rather than a straightforward Iranian lease. The authoritative Oil Industry Newsletter, published in Nicosia, said that Iran had evidently agreed to allow Iranian crude stored in Saldanha to form part of South Africa's strategic fuel stockpile. That would allow South Africa to decrease its large strategic stocks, which government plans call for halving from 70 million barrels.

WTO states agree legal frame for financial pact

GENEVA (R) — World Trade Organisation (WTO) members on Friday agreed on a legal framework for a pact on financial services in a move key envoys said would make conclusion of a deal next week — without the United States — almost certain. Protocols for a European Union-sponsored interim accord freeing the multi-billion dollar global trade in banking, insurance and securities were approved by the WTO Services Council, with both Japan and South Korea giving the NOD.

Only final approval by governments in Tokyo and Seoul, which had wanted the United States back in now, was needed for the pact — to go into force in August next year and last till the end of 1997 — to be finalised, diplomats said. Officials from both countries said on Friday they had instructions to approve the draft protocol pending formal decisions in their capitals on joining the accord. Trade diplomats from other countries said they expected announcements from Japan and South Korea in time for a meeting of the WTO Financial Services Committee next Wednesday, two days before a new deadline for agreement runs out. The advance was eased by an informal agreement that a more authoritative group

would be set up in the WTO to work on expanding accords on the movement around the world of "natural persons" involved in providing services. India, Pakistan and Egypt had linked progress in that area with agreement on opening wider to foreign firms their domestic financial service markets, long strictly protected. There had been some fears that differences in Tokyo between the powerful finance ministry, which was reluctant to back a pact without U.S. inclusion, and the foreign ministry might keep Japan on the fence too long a deal by July 28. But although Japan hedged its support for the protocol by insisting that its approval was purely procedural, diplomats from other Asian countries said they felt Tokyo was now moving towards declaring full support. Japan and South Korea, with their major markets in the sector, are vital for a deal. Even the EU, which has been campaigning fiercely for the

interim accord, has said it could not go ahead without them. The package would link the EU with key Asian and Latin American countries in a pact under which they would extend their best market-opening offers to all other signatories. The United States walked out of negotiations at the end of June, a day before a global package was due for completion, saying offers from many developing countries were not enough to make an accord worthwhile. It said it would seek to make only bilateral deals — rather than join multilateral package being prepared in the WTO — with countries ready to offer reciprocal liberal access to their banking, insurance and investment service markets. The EU, desperate to save openings already offered by developing countries in one of the most dynamic sectors of the world economy, won backing from other WTO countries to extend the deadline to July 28.

Creditor nations agree \$7.5 debt rescheduling

PARIS (AFP) — Creditor nations meeting in Paris Friday agreed to reschedule \$7.5 billion of Algeria's debt for the three-year period covered by a recent international monetary fund agreement. The IMF agreement covers a period up to May 31, 1998. Officials at the meeting of the Paris Club of international creditors had earlier said in a statement they would recommend a major restructuring of Algeria's debt, but refused to name the sum involved.

The statement said that after this was the moment for an effort to boost the Algerian economy. Algeria has been torn by over three years of civil war since the military-backed government in January 1992 cancelled the second round of general elections Islamic fundamentalists were poised to win.

Financial Markets			
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	New York Close 20/7/95	New York Close 21/7/95	
Sterling Pound	1.5965	1.5940	
Deutsche Mark	1.3819	1.3860	
Swiss Franc	1.5150	1.5150	
French Franc	4.8030	4.8215	
Japanese Yen	88.131	88.53	
European Currency Unit	1.5590	1.5590	
Eurocurrency Interest Rates			
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.62
Sterling Pound	6.43	6.56	6.75
Deutsche Mark	4.31	4.31	4.31
Swiss Franc	2.43	2.56	2.68
French Franc	6.50	6.31	6.12
Japanese Yen	0.62	0.62	0.56
European Currency Unit	6.00	6.00	6.03
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin			
Date: 22/7/1995			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.6970	0.6990	
Sterling Pound	1.1100	1.1156	
Deutsche Mark	0.5063	0.5048	
Swiss Franc	0.6029	0.6059	
French Franc	0.1444	0.1451	
Japanese Yen	0.7859	0.7896	
Dutch Guilder	0.4487	0.4509	
Swedish Krona	0.0488	0.0491	
Italian Lira	0.0034	0.0036	
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000	
Other Currencies			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.8330	1.8450	
Lebanese Lira	0.046145	0.046220	
Saudi Riyal	0.1855	0.1869	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3000	2.3400	
Qatari Riyal	0.1902	0.1915	
Egyptian Pound	0.1800	0.1800	
Omani Riyal	1.8010	1.8200	
UAE Dirham	0.1888	0.1901	
Greek Drachma	0.0235	0.02375	
Cypriot Pound	1.5125	1.6055	

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER, AMMAN - JORDANI				
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 807178				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 22/7/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	NEW CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PSC	340	70600	207.000	208.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2600	11590	4.500	4.450
BANK OF JORDAN	2800	9449	3.400	3.380
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	750	975	1.300	1.300
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1000	2540	2.550	2.540
THE HOUSING BANK	1300	10400	8.000	8.000
JORDAN KOWAT BANK	1148	3215	2.800	2.800
JORDAN CREDIT BANK	1200	1300	1.100	1.100
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	5250	20330	3.800	3.800
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	7313	27016	3.720	3.700
REY REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	900	3250	3.650	3.650
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	19250	20983	1.100	1.090
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1039	5451	5.250	5.250
WILHELMIA INVESTMENT BANK	25600	41862	1.670	1.660
BANKS SECTOR	70440	228987	INDEX NUMBER: 123.75	CHANGE: -0.15%
JORDAN FRANCH INSURANCE	2900	7790	2.680	2.670
YUNUSUF INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	100	340	3.300	3.400
INSURANCE SECTOR	3000	8130	INDEX NUMBER: 136.08	CHANGE: -0.16%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	53797	85290	1.610	1.570
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	250	675	2.820	2.700
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	950	2690	2.860	2.810
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	500	1050	2.100	2.100
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	3200	3240	1.030	1.020
THE JORDAN WOODSTOCK MILLS	11000	11400	7.700	7.600
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	7100	34218	4.820	4.820
JORDAN DAIRY	180	405	2.300	2.250
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	100	255	2.550	2.550
DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1452	11334	7.800	7.750
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	2000	1480	7.40	7.30
INVESTMENT & REALTY	32130	15875	4.90	4.80
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	500	675	1.350	1.350
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	2000	2350	2.350	2.350
INDUSTRIES & PETROLEUM	46811	51863	1.100	1.070
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	9850	21573	2.220	2.220
JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	500	540	1.100	1.080
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & WATCHE/JINDO	1000	630	6.30	6.30
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	750	1203	1.590	1.610
ARAB CENTER FOR FIBRE & CHEMICALS	1200	2606	2.180	2.170
ORIENTAL ROBERT INDUSTRIES	12310	13130	3.150	3.150
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6550	13451	2.090	2.040
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	3100	5175	1.690	1.700
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	136701	254155	INDEX NUMBER: 126.41	CHANGE: -0.69%
GRAND TOTAL	271463	589632	INDEX NUMBER: 150.47	CHANGE: -0.20%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		70507		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		76249		

JORDAN MARKET PLACE



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Torrence says women still suffering from Flo-Jo era

OSLO (R) — Gwen Torrence, the Olympic 200 metres champion, has re-opened old wounds by saying she does not acknowledge Florence Griffith-Joyner's world 100 and 200 metre records set seven years ago.

After beating her great rival Jamaican Merlene Ottey to win the 200 at the Bissett Games Grand Prix Friday night, Torrence launched a verbal onslaught on the "unbeatable" records set by her American compatriot in 1988.

"Women sprinters are still suffering as a result of what she did to the times in the 100 and 200," said Torrence, 30.

"In fact I don't acknowledge those times as world records. To me they don't exist. They cannot be beaten as far as I can see for maybe five, 10, 15 years. Not by anyone running today, anyway."

"And they mean that women sprinters are losing out financially. We never can have a world record holder running in our races so we can't get the pay we deserve. We can't go for the records because they are unbeatable, no women sprinter can ever be introduced to the crowd as the world record holder, and I think that we are all suffering as a result of that."

"I certainly feel cheated by it, not being able to go for a world record — unless you run at altitude with a wind behind you. But I just can't see them being beaten."

Griffith-Joyner, who won the 100 and 200 double at the Seoul Olympics in 1988 and then surprisingly retired from athletics shortly afterwards, set the world 100 record of 10.49 at Indianapolis July 16, 1988 beating the previous mark of 10.79 established by American Evelyn Ashford in 1983.

Then on Sept. 29, 1988 she set two 200 world records on the same day, winning the Olympic semifinal in 21.56 and then lowering that in the final to 21.34 seconds.

Athletes including Torrence have said some women's times over the past 10 years could only have been achieved with the aid of performance-enhancing

drugs, but Griffith-Joyner has consistently denied any claims hers were helped by drugs.

Torrence herself made further allegations about women's athletics after the 1992 Olympic sprint finals in Barcelona saying some of the

ATHLETICS

competitors were not clean and added on Friday she still stood by her remarks.

In the seven years since the 100 times was set the closest anyone has come to it is Russian Irina Privalova who ran 10.77 in Lausanne a year ago. Griffith-Joyner still owns the four fastest times ever run.

The 200 record has never been remotely challenged either. In 1991 Ottey ran 21.64 seconds in Brussels and a year before that clocked 21.66 in Zurich, the third and fourth fastest times ever. Torrence herself ranks eighth on the all-time 100 list with a best of 10.82. She is joint-fifth on the 200 list at 21.72 seconds.

"As far as I am concerned Evelyn Ashford still holds the 100 world record and Merlene's 21.64 is the 200 world record."

Asked why she thought Griffith-Joyner was able to produce such remarkable times, Torrence replied, "it was a very windy day."

When Griffith-Joyner did

set the 100 time, the official wind reading was zero, but in races immediately prior to her win, and immediately afterwards, the wind-metre registered readings of a following wind of 5.0 metres per second. The maximum legal limit for world records to be officially ratified is 2.0 metres per second.

"I guess the metre man just fell asleep when she was running — that's a joke," she said.

Torrence is attempting to emulate Griffith-Joyner's sprint double at next month's World Championships in Gothenburg and said she was pleased with her victory over Ottey although not impressed by her winning time of 22.36 seconds. Ottey also said she felt "very flat indeed" to clock 22.66.

But there were some impressive performance with four year's best marks set.

Kenyan Moses Kiptanui came closest to setting the 53rd world record in the stadium with a time of eight minutes 03.36 seconds in the 3,000 steeplechase, the second fastest time ever run and just missing out on his own world record of 8:02.08 set three years ago.

European champion Sonia O'Sullivan of Ireland set a year's best of 8:34.31 in the 3,000, while Olympic 5,000 Champion Dieter Baumann matched that in the men's 3,000 with a year's best time



Florence Griffith-Joyner

of 7:33.56, also a German national record. German Raymond Hecht achieved the year's best javelin throw of 92.60 metres

beating world championship rivals Jan Zelezney and Steve Backley in the process while American Michael Johnson won the 400 in 43.86 seconds,

a time only he has beaten this year as he successfully continued his build-up to his attempt at a 200-400 double in Gothenburg next month.

Brazil praises improved Americans

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — No longer struggling to beat the Netherlands Antilles, the United States has raised its standing in international soccer. However, nobody is telling them to pose with the World Cup trophy.

The Americans' run over the last six weeks — which has included victories over Nigeria, Mexico (twice) and Argentina, has improved nearly everybody's opinion of them. Even their 1-0 loss to Brazil Thursday night in the Copa America semifinals in Uruguay drew praise.

"Brazil scored on the only error of the American team," said Raul Plassman, an all-star keeper turned TV commentator. "The American (defensive) system is almost perfect. It's no coincidence that no one managed to score more than one goal on this team."

Thursday night's loss condemned the United States to the third-place game against Colombia. Brazil advanced to face Uruguay for the title Sunday.

For a team long considered the flyweight of the hemisphere, teaching the final four was itself a triumph.

Brazilians on Friday paid respect to the evolution of U.S. soccer.

"We were unable to move as we usually do or to create opportunities, because their marking is very strong," Brazilian forward Edmundo said in a televised interview.

Brazil had the same problems with the U.S. team in last summer's World Cup, when it struggled to a 1-0 victory on American independence day.

But in that game, the Americans rarely went forward, and rarely threatened despite playing the last 45

minutes with a man advantage.

Thursday night, Brazil dominated possession throughout the first half, creating two chances in the opening minutes and capitalizing when Aldair sprinted through the penalty area to score on a sharp header off a free kick from Juninho in the 13th minute.

To the surprise of many, the Americans showed no panic, returned composed in the second and pushed forward for an equalizer. A pair of heads by defender Alexi Lalas caused anxiety on Brazil's bench.

"We knew we'd face difficulties, because the Americans are of the European

school of soccer," Brazil's coach Mario Zagallo told a local TV reporter. "That's why we were suffocated at the end, when they bet everything on the aerial game."

Still, Zagallo insisted his team had the game in hand. "How many saves did (keeper Claudio) Taffarel make?" he asked rhetorically. "The domination of the game was entirely ours."

The Brazilian media harped on own their team's flaws as much as the Americans' merits. The consensus was that Brazil played its worst game of the tournament.

"Was this suffocation necessary?" read the headline in the Rio daily O Dia.

Junior World Basketball Jordan loses to Italy

By Roufan Nabhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom's Under-18 national basketball team finished last in the Junior World Basketball Championship currently held in Athens.

After suffering consecutive defeats in the 16-team competition at the hands of South Korea 68-61 and from Italy 65-45 respectively Friday and Saturday. The team came in the 16th place.

The U-18 team is the first to represent Jordan in a World Basketball Championship finals and only the third Arab country to qualify for the world championship. Egypt finished last in Sao Paulo in 1979 while Syria came in 12th among 16 participating country in the 1992 championship held in Canada.

The Kingdom's team faced a lot of setbacks from top world teams Australia, Italy and the U.S.

Unfortunately the team's chances evaporated after losing each game in the first round of the championship thus leading them to play for the 9-16th places with South Korea, China, Puerto Rico and in which they lost all their games.

Meanwhile in the primary rounds Jordan finished last in Group C after losing to title holders the U.S. 61-51, Australia 78-35, and Italy 87-64.

The team suffered in all games a low free throw percentage.

Jordan played S. Korea Friday for places 16-15 and lost 68-61. (37-36).

Jordan's Ma'en Odeh scored 18, Ashraf Samarah 15 and Zeid Alkhas 9.

In Saturday's match Jordan could not recover from its loss to Italy in the primary stage and lost again 65-45 (30-19). The Jordanian team wasted 13 free throws, and Ihab Msih was sent out in the fifth foul.

Jordan, the third place finisher in the Asian Championship in March, represented the continent along with China and S. Korea.

Jordan's team includes Zeid Alkhas, Ma'en Odeh, Ashraf Samarah, Mahmoud Sha'ban, Samer Nino, Ihab Msih, Ramzi Ghneim, Fadi Al Saqaa, Zeid Zumout, Raed Ghosheh, Ziyad Naghoj and Seif Lada.

Greece will play Australia for the final and Croatia, with Spain for the third and fourth places.

Results of other matches played Friday:

Games played for places 1-4:

Greece-Spain 80-57 (37-31); Australia-Croatia 76-53 (31-22)

Places 5-8:

Lithuania-France 85-81 (36-42); Argentina-U.S. 67-58 (29-33)

The team will return to Amman today.

Colin Jackson pulls out of World Championships

LONDON (AP) — Colin Jackson will not defend his 110-metre hurdles title at next month's World Championships.

Jackson announced Friday that he was withdrawing from consideration for the British team because of an adductor muscle injury.

The injury forced Jackson to pull out of last Saturday's British national championships in Birmingham, England.

He angered British officials and set off a storm of controversy in the British media when he completed the next day in a meet in Padua, Italy.

The British Athletic Federation (BAF) left Jackson off the team for the Aug. 4-13 World Championships in Göteborg, Sweden, ordering him to prove his competitive fitness before he would be selected.

Jackson said Thursday he would comply by running in Sunday's meet in Sheffield, England. But he changed his mind Friday.

"After a testing training session this morning, I can confirm that I have not fully recovered from the injury which forced me to withdraw from the AAA (national) Championships," he said in a statement.

"While it was always my intention to comply with the selector's requirements and compete within the specified 7-day period, my recovery has not progressed according to plan."

"I believe that I received good professional advice to test the extent of my injury in a competitive race in Padua, despite the criticism I have received from those who did not wait to clarify the injury I have."

"Mentally, my preparations for the World Championships have been far from perfect, with both my honesty and credibility by the media and the British Athletics Federation questioned."

"Anyone who knows me as an athlete will understand how disappointed I am not to be able to defend my title in Göteborg. However, my main focus will continue to be the 110-metre hurdles Olympic title."

BAF Executive Chairman Pete Radford issued a statement confirming Jackson's withdrawal, saying the Welsh athlete "seriously aggravated" his adductor injury during a training session in Catdiffe, Wales.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAHMENA HIRSH

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Both vulnerable. North dealer.

NORTH
♠ A Q 10 7
♥ A K 8 5 4 3
♦ A 6
♣ 7

WEST
♠ 4 2
♥ 7
♦ K 8 7 6 3 2
♣ K 8 8 5 4

EAST
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♥ Q J 10 5
♦ Q J 10
♣ A J 2

SOUTH
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♥ 8 2
♦ 8 4
♣ K 10 9

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♣ Pass
6 ♣ Pass 6 ♣ Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♣.
How often have you seen a receiver in football make the most incredible catch and then, a few minutes later, drop a fumble? The player simply took his eye off the ball. The same thing happens at the bridge table when the contract seems too easy.

North's hand became enormous once South responded to the one-heart opening bid with one spade. North launched right into slam-wood, but settled on the small slam upon learning that partner did not

hold the missing ace. West's diamond opening lead eliminated a crucial entry to the table. At first glance it might seem declarer can draw two rounds of trumps, then go about establishing the heart suit. However, declarer realized that, should hearts break 4-1, both hands would be exhausted of trumps in setting up and running the long hearts, since dummy's trumps would be needed as entries, so declarer would have to concede a trick in each minor. To make the contract, a small element of risk was necessary.

Declarer cashed one high trump, followed by the ace and king of hearts. That frightened play was rewarded when West showed out on a heart. West was ruffed in the closed hand, dummy was re-entered with a heart was ruffed setting up two long cards in the suit.

A trump to the ten provided the entry to cash the two hearts, declarer discarding a card in each minor. Now the board's diamond was a club was the board's last trump and was ruffed. Then the contract could not have been made no matter how declarer maneuvered!

INVITATION TO RETENDER THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT TO THE NEW FACULTY OF EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES AT UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB)

1- The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan related to Human Resources Development Project from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development the World Bank and intends to apply part of proceeds of this loan to eligible payments for the supply of the goods and services covered by this invitation.

2- The Respective purchasers namely: University of Jordan in Amman

herby invite local and international suppliers of educational equipment in subject being taught in the Faculty of Educational Sciences of UOJ to apply for bidding documents and to submit tenders (bids) for the equipment to be provided to the various laboratories, workshops and classrooms of the faculty.

3- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents from the Tendering Department at University of Jordan in Amman between hours 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday beginning July 22, 1995 to Aug. 9, 1995.

4- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be obtained from the above referred office upon submission of a written application and payment of a non-refundable fee. All payments will be made by a bank draft or certified bank check in the currency of the purchaser's choice or in cash made out in favour of the University of Jordan. Price of purchasing the documents would be the equivalent amount of Jordanian Dinars as follows:

- For delivery to personal callers JD 15,000 per lot.
- For delivery by local mail to local Bidders by courier Service JD 25,000 per lot plus JD 50 for all lots.

Bids will be priced and submitted separately for each individual Lot. Contracts will be awarded on a Lot (by/Lot) basis to the lowest evaluated bidders who would prove capable to carry out the requirements of the contracts to be signed. Bidders could be awarded more than one contract of each.

Closing date for the bid submission will be noon of September 23, 1995. Bids shall have a validity of 90 days and will be accompanied by a bid security to the value of about 3% of the Bid Price and of duration of 120 days.

University of Jordan

INVITATION TO RETENDER THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT TO THE NEW FACULTY OF EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES AT YARMOUK UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB)

1- The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan related to Human Resources Development Project from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development the World Bank and intends to apply part of proceeds of this loan to eligible payments for the supply of the goods and services covered by this invitation.

2- The Respective purchasers namely: Yarmouk University in Irbid.

herby invite local and international suppliers of educational equipment in subject being taught in the Faculty of Educational Sciences of YU to apply for bidding documents and to submit tenders (bids) for the equipment to be provided to the various laboratories, workshops and classrooms of the faculty.

3- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Liaison Office of Yarmouk University located at the Higher Council for Science and Technology building inside the campus of the Royal Scientific Society, in Amman between hours 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday beginning July 23, 1995 to Aug. 9, 1995.

4- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be obtained from the above referred office upon submission of a written application and payment of a non-refundable fee. All payments will be made by a bank draft or certified bank check in the currency of the purchaser's choice or in cash made out in favour of the Yarmouk University. Price of purchasing the documents would be the equivalent amount of Jordanian Dinars as follows:

- For delivery to personal callers JD 15,000 per lot.
- For delivery by local mail to local Bidders by courier Service JD 25,000 per lot plus JD 50 for all lots.

Bids will be priced and submitted separately for each individual Lot. Contracts will be awarded on a Lot (by/Lot) basis to the lowest evaluated bidders who would prove capable to carry out the requirements of the contracts to be signed. Bidders could be awarded more than one contract of each.

Closing date for the bid submission will be noon of September 23, 1995. Bids shall have a validity of 90 days and will be accompanied by a bid security to the value of about 3% of the Bid Price and of duration of 120 days.

Yarmouk University

INVITATION TO RETENDER THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT TO THE NEW FACULTY OF EDUCATION SCIENCES AT MU'TAH UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB)

1- The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan related to Human Resources Development Project from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development the World Bank and intends to apply part of proceeds of this loan to eligible payments for the supply of the goods and services covered by this invitation.

2- The Respective purchasers namely: Mu'tah University in Karak.

herby invite local and international suppliers of educational equipment in subject being taught in the Faculty of Education Sciences of MU to apply for bidding documents and to submit tenders (bids) for the equipment to be provided to the various laboratories, workshops and classrooms of the faculty.

3- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Liaison Office of Mu'tah University located at Samir Rifai St. Jabal Amman between hours 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday beginning July 22, 1995 to Aug. 9, 1995.

4- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be obtained from the above referred office upon submission of a written application and payment of a non-refundable fee. All payments will be made by a bank draft or certified bank check in the currency of the purchaser's choice or in cash made out in favour of the Mu'tah University. Price of purchasing the documents would be the equivalent amount of Jordanian Dinars as follows:

- For Delivery to personal callers JD 15,000 per lot.
- For delivery by local mail to local Bidders by courier Service JD 25,000 per Lot plus JD 50 for all Lots.

Bids will be priced and submitted separately for each individual Lot. Contracts will be awarded on a Lot (by/Lot) basis to the lowest evaluated bidders who would prove capable to carry out the requirements of the contracts to be signed. Bidders could be awarded more than one contract of each.

Closing date for the bid submission will be noon of September 23, 1995. Bids shall have a validity of 90 days and will be accompanied by a bid security to the value of about 3% of the Bid Price and of duration of 120 days.

Mu'tah University

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Abu...
By Roufan Nabhas
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Samra and...
The rally was...
Sheikh...
English...
triumph...
ASCOT, England...
Sheikh Mohamed...
based Godolphin...
claimed yet another...
prize here on Sunday...
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three times but...
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King George.

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Leger runner-up...
wont set the pace...
outsiders Strat...
and veteran E...
Friend. The latter...
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Tel: 652415
Amman

Abu Samra wins national rally

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Maarouf Abu Samra and co-driver Amjad Shamayleh won the National Nokia Rally Friday with a time of 1:10:36. Ahmad Dawood and co-driver Mohammad Mitwali in a Renault 5 GTi Turbo won the second place with a time of 1:19:54 and Mohammad Dawood and co-driver Khaled Zakaria came in third place in a Ford Fiesta XR2i with 1:22:22.

Only nine cars reached the finish line out of 14 cars which participated in the rally.

The rally which covered a total distance of 240 kilometres of the new terrain with six special stages located around the four famous Umayyad desert castles of Al Harrana, Mushatta, Rujm Al Shami and Amra.

Bashar Bustami, the National Rally Champion, and co-driver Rafi Balmijan, faced some mechanical problems to their Ford Sierra which forced them to quit the race.

They were followed by three other competitors

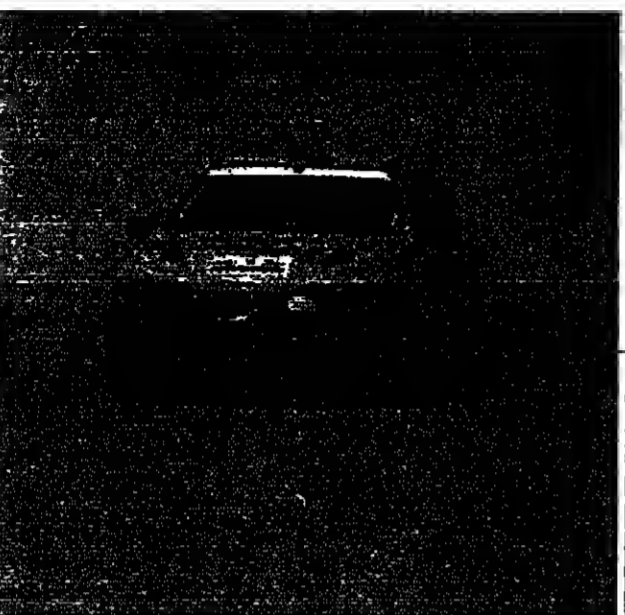
who also quit for mechanical problems.

Zeid Asfour and Mohammad Khaiat quit the race after falling in a trench in their Volvo 244.

New comer to the rally scene Fayek Sayegh and co-driver Abed Handoumeh came in the eighth place with 1:57:22.

The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) announced that the format of the rally is a trial to test the stages prior to the first leg of the 1996 Jordan International Rally.

Prizes were distributed in a special ceremony at the RACJ headquarters Saturday.



Maarouf Abu Samra in action (file photo)

Sheikh Mohammad's English Derby winner triumphs in Ascot

ASCOT, England (AFP) — Sheikh Mohammad's Dubai-based Godolphin Operation claimed yet another Group 1 prize here on Saturday when English Derby winner Lammtarra won a thrilling King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes.

Lammtarra has raced just three times but is unbeaten and broke the course record in winning the English Derby. He repeated the feat of his sire Nijinsky who also won the Derby and then the King George.

Seven went to post including the 1994 Arc de Triomphe winner Carnegie. 1995 Irish Derby winner Winged Love and the well fancied Pentire who had won two significant Derby Trials but had not been considered good enough to run in it.

Broadway Flyer, 1994 St. Leger runner-up, as is his wont set the pace trailed by outsiders Strategic Choice and veteran Environment Friend. The latter these days swings backwards and forwards between the mating duties that an old boy deserves and the racecourse.

Behind Broadway Flyer, bred by South African golfer Gary Player, the more favoured horses, Winged Love, Lammtarra, and Carnegie raced almost three abreast while Pentire whipped them in.

Tu ming for home the bold front-running tactics of Broadway Flyer appeared to have muddled the thinking of the jockeys behind. They did not know whether to attack first or wait for their rivals to pounce.

With two furlongs to go before they met with the

HORSE RACING

judge, Pentire surged down the outside under Michael Hills and swept Environment Friend and Broadway Flyer aside showing no respect for their superior age.

Pentire went for the line and appeared likely to add further proof that this year's Derby was not very good. Frankie Dettori, who had controversially replaced Lammtarra's Derby pilot Walter Swinburn, produced his mount with a sustained burst similar to the one that had gained him victory at Epsom.

Pentire and Lammtarra went neck and neck into the final 100 yards. Neither would concede an inch. Both jockeys were stretched to the limit their hands armed with the required whip hitting the horses to get that last extra effort, for this is a race that makes legends of the winners.

Lammtarra, the 9/4 favourite, ultimately had the extra stamina and class to edge out his valiant opponent Pentire (3/1). Strategic Choice hung on gamely, like a desperate maiden aunt waiting for that last bit of cake, to take third 1 1/2 lengths back at the generous price of 25/1.

The rest trailed in well beaten. Andre Fabre's Sheikh Mohammed duo, Winged Love was a capable but disappointing fourth and Carnegie never really got into the action at all.

Korean boxer loses WBA title

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-bantam weight champion Lee Hyung-Chul had to hand over his crown to Venezuelan challenger Alimi Goitia Saturday after a disputed bout in Seoul.

South Korea's Yonhap domestic news agency said French referee Armand Krief declared Goitia's victory after negotiating with WBA supervisor, Aurelio Fiengo of Panama, and three other judges following the fight which was stopped shortly after the end of the fourth round.

The dispute erupted when Goitia, 25, landed a punch on Lee's right temple apparently after the bell began ringing to finish the fourth round of the bout televised live.

The television pictures showed Lee, 26, refusing to return to his corner and lying on the canvas for some minutes in protest.

Lee later returned to his corner, apparently hoping to continue but the referee and Goitia left the ring.

The Korea Broadcasting System stopped the broadcast after showing officials discussing what to do.

Yonhap said the referee and the judges agreed that the challenger landed the blow on Lee's head at the same time that the finish bell rang.

"We cannot understand the referee's decision," Yonhap quoted Lee's trainer Kim Kyu-Chul as saying. Kim was also quoted as saying the South Korean side would appeal to the WBA against the decision and arrange another fight with the Venezuelan.

Indurain heads for fifth Tour de France title

LIMOGES, France (AP) — Miguel Indurain moved to the verge of his record fifth straight Tour de France title by winning in the individual time trial in Saturday's 19th stage.

Indurain took the 46.5-kilometre stage around Lac de Vassiviere in 57 minutes, 34 seconds, 48 seconds better than Bjarne Riis of Denmark with Tony Rominger 1 minute, 5 seconds behind.

Overall, Indurain has a lead four minutes, 35 seconds over Alex Zülle of Switzerland with Riis at 6:47 behind.

Sunday's stage is a largely ceremonial ride from St. Genevieve des Bois to Paris, 155 kilometres to end on the Champs Elysees. Barring accident, Indurain should take his fifth title in a row.

Belgian Eddy Merckx, Frenchman Jacques Anquetil and Bernard Hinault have also won five tours but Indurain will be the first who can do it in straight years.

Zülle looks to be the fifth different runner-up that Indurain has had on the podium. In 1991 it was Gianni Bugno of Italy followed by another Italian, Claudio Chiappucci in

1992. Tony Rominger of Switzerland was second in 1993 and Piotr Ugrumov of Latvia. Rominger failed to finish in 1994 while Ugrumov dropped out this year.

But Indurain kept rolling on. Last year, in the final time trial, Indurain was just third, not wanting to push it with a large lead and a rain-slicked course. He still won overall by 5 minutes, 39 seconds.

This year Indurain showed he was in control all the way. On the final flat stage before a time trial, he made a surprise attack that added a minute onto his lead.

In the mountains he would let his teammates pace him then took over in the final climb.

Although Indurain's margin was his smallest since 1991 when he won by 3:36 over Bugno, there was still little doubt he was still the dominant rider from the start.

He demonstrated that in four consecutive stages on the second weekend when he took the first individual time trial and was second in three different types of stages that put the distance between he and his major rivals.

Agasssi, Edberg reach semis of ATP Washington Classic

WASHINGTON (R) — Top seed Andre Agasssi survived a threat by Colombia's Mauricio Hadad and second seed Stefan Edberg struggled but advanced to the semifinals of the ATP Washington Classic Friday.

Agasssi scored a 6-3 6-4 victory over Hadad, who had made a habit of recovering from large deficits in the tournament.

The unseeded Colombian trailed Aaron Krickstein 4-0 in the third set of his second-round match, and was blown away in the first set of his third-round match against Mark Philippoussis but came back to win both matches.

Against Agasssi, Hadad led 4-3 in the second set and had two break points at 15-40 but Agasssi held serve and went on to win the match.

"I got a little concerned at double-break point at 3-4. You start to think that if you lose he'll be serving for the set," Agasssi said. "You don't want to be here any later than you have to."

Agasssi added: "It had all the elements for a possible upset, so I'm glad I got through it."

Edberg sailed through his first two matches but found himself in a dogfight with unseeded Cristiano Caratti. The 25-year-old Italian entered the tournament with a 2-8 record in 1995 but took a 5-2 lead in the final set before falling 6-4 5-7 7-6 (7-1).

Edberg, the defending



Stefan Edberg

champion here, jumped out on top in the first set but at 3-3 in the second, thunderstorms delayed the match for nearly four hours. Neither player seemed sharp after the long delay, and Edberg broke Caratti in the ninth game to serve for the match at 5-4.

But Caratti saved match point at 40-30, then won eight of the next 10 games to stand on the verge of victory.

Facing elimination and a further drop in the world rankings, Edberg, a perennial top-10 player currently at number 16, pulled out the win in his first meeting with Caratti.

"When you're down 5-2, you have to say to yourself, make an effort, go for it," the

Swede said. "I just tried to play my game."

His semifinal opponent will be 13th seed Patrick Rafter, the young Australian who reached his first semifinal of the year with a 7-6 (7-4) 6-0 win over 11th seed Patrick McEnroe. Rafter, 1993's tour newcomer off he year, has struggled in 1995, but hopes this tournament will help turn things around.

"I haven't been doing that great this year, but it's the hardest I've worked and that work's starting to pay off," Rafter said.

Fourth seed Todd Martin of the United States beat fifth seed Jason Stoltenberg of Australia 6-2 6-3 in the other quarterfinal.

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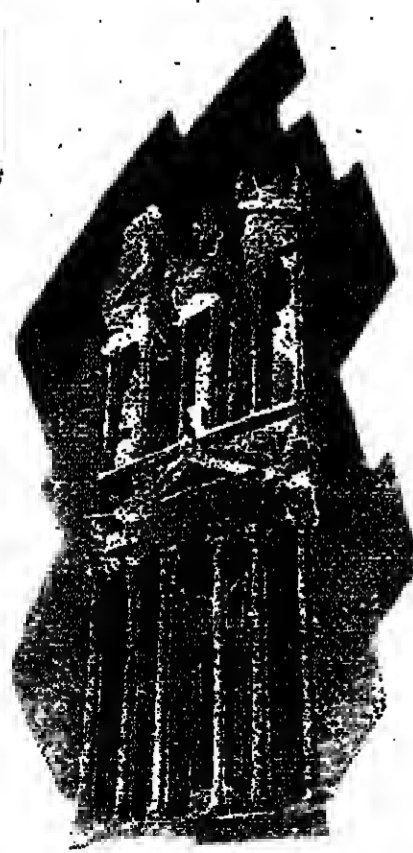
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Iraq pardons army deserters

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has issued an unexpected general amnesty that will free thousands of Iraqis, pardon army deserters faced with having their ears cut off and commute death sentences, the official Iraqi news agency reported Saturday.

It said the amnesty was issued after a meeting of the revolutionary command council, Iraq's highest legislative body, presided over by President Hussein.

It was not clear why the president has decided to issue such a wide-ranging amnesty now.

But it could be a gesture toward the U.N. Security Council, which has demanded the Baghdad regime improve its human rights record, to encourage it to lift devastating trade sanctions imposed in August 1990 after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

The amnesty follows Baghdad's delivery of details on its clandestine biological weapons programme to the U.N. earlier this month after denying for four years that it had an offensive capability in that field.

On Thursday, Iraq also began destroying high-precision missiles that U.N. experts say could be used to manufacture components for ballistic missiles, banned by the Security Council under the terms of the 1991 Gulf war cease-fire.

All this indicates that Iraq is seeking to soften its confrontation with the Security Council in advance of a sanctions committee review of the embargo in September.

Baghdad may also be responding to growing friction with powerful Sunni-Muslim tribes who for years have been staunch supporters of the regime.

These have been increasingly alienated over the last two or three years as the sanctions caused increasing hardship among Iraq's 20 million people.

On a more pragmatic level, it could simply be that Iraq's prisons are full. Tens of thousands of Iraqis are believed to have been imprisoned since 1990, especially in the last two or three years as the sanctions drove many to crime.

The INA report, monitored in Nicotia, gave no indication how many prisoners could be released.

But it said they include prisoners who have served three years of 10-year sentences, or two years of a sentence less than 10 years.

It said other prisoners could be freed if their families provide guarantees of good behaviour, supported by members of the ruling Baath Party.

Nothing to lose

Meanwhile, Iraq said it was convinced it has nothing to

lose by sticking to its threat to stop cooperating with the United Nations unless international sanctions are lifted, newspapers said Saturday.

"For five years Iraq has groaned under the weight of the embargo. There is nothing to lose by putting an end to cooperation with the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM)," said the daily Al Jomhuriya.

Baghdad Wednesday issued an ultimatum to UNSCOM, saying it would withdraw cooperation unless the commission gave Iraq's disarmament programme clean bill of health by the end of August to allow a lifting of the embargo.

It demanded that the U.N. Security Council lift the sanctions in September or face Baghdad's determination to no longer be held to U.N. resolutions.

Al Jomhuriya said promises given to Iraq about lifting the sanctions were merely an "American" game to weaken and reduce Iraq's capacity to resist.

"What can it (the United States) do if Iraq cuts off this threat? Impose a new embargo or resort to force?" asked the paper.

The army daily, Al Qadisiya, said Iraq "threatens nobody if it calls on the Security Council to stick to its commitments and lift the sanctions."



A Jordanian soldier kneels during Friday prayers as about 50 Muslim refugees and U.N. soldiers from Jordan and Pakistan took part in the prayers at a makeshift tent mosque

built by Jordanian soldiers for the 7,000 Bosnian refugees from Srebrenica, sheltered at Tuzla airport, was finished on Saturday (AFP photo)

Egyptian government bows to journalists' pressure

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Egypt's government bowed again to journalists' pressure Saturday and will include representatives of opposition newspapers in a committee to draft a new press law.

The move was announced by Ibrahim Nafie, head of the journalists' syndicate and editor of the government daily Al-Ahram, after journalists objected to the 30 members of the committee named last week to draft the law.

Gamal Badawi, editor of the opposition daily Al-Wafd, had called it "the committee of scoundrels."

Mr. Badawi still will not be on the committee, but it was expanded to include the editors of the Nasserite opposi-

tion weekly Al-Arabi, the leftist weekly Al-Ahali and the semi-official liberal magazine Rose Al-Youssef, as well as a former head of the journalists' syndicate.

Even agreeing to name such a committee was seen as a government concession after journalists threatened to strike last month when parliament adopted a sweeping anti-defamation law criticised as an infringement on press freedom.

After the government put limits on enforcement of the law and agreed to adopt new overall press legislation, the strike was called off.

But journalists objected anew when the committee was appointed July 15, saying

many of the members were not journalists or had supported the anti-defamation law.

The law, enacted at the end of May, sets criminal penalties for a series of vaguely defined offenses such as publishing false or malicious news that is detrimental to national interests. Under the law, penalties were increased to five years imprisonment and a 20,000-pound (\$6,000) fine from the previous law's three months in jail and a 50-pound (\$15) fine.

The committee was to begin its work Saturday night and was expected to produce a draft press law within three months.

'Muslim nations defy Bosnia embargo'

CAIRO (AFP) — The 50 member nations of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) will no longer abide by the international arms embargo on Bosnia, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Saturday.

The resolutions of the OIC contact group on Bosnia on Friday "free the countries from the commitment not to send weapons to Bosnia," Mr. Musa said after returning to Cairo from Geneva, where he attended the OIC group meeting.

"Egypt considers the ban on sending arms lifted," he said.

But Mr. Musa added that the decision to start arming the Bosnians "depends on the Bosnian government and its needs. If it asks any Islamic or non-Islamic nation (for arms) that is its business, not ours."

He added that the OIC contact group did not discuss "military questions," saying "but if the U.N. fails, then circumstances will be different."

Mr. Musa ruled out sending foreign troops to Bosnia, saying: "Experience has proved that an attack on the ground is not effective. The Islamic position is to enable the Bosnians to defend themselves by raising the embargo."

Mr. Musa criticised the results of an international conference in London on the crisis as "half solutions and partial decisions," because it would allow the Srebrenica and Zepa U.N. areas to fall to the Serbs.

He blamed Russia for "the divisions which appeared in London," saying: "Russia continues to help the Serbs and says the solution should be a diplomatic one, while letting the Serbs do what they are doing."

Earlier in an interview with Egyptian state radio, Mr. Musa called on the Security Council to reaffirm that Srebrenica and Zepa were still part of U.N.-declared protected areas.

Earlier, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said an Islamic summit should be held in Cairo to discuss the Bosnian crisis.

"An OIC summit should be held if necessary so that the world understand that there is an Islamic front capable of taking firm decisions and measures and that it has its contribution to make to the international situation," he said.

Sahaf optimistic ties with Egypt will resume soon

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Iraq's foreign minister, Mohammed Saeed Al-Sahaf, said in an interview published Saturday that he was optimistic his country would soon resume ties with Egypt.

Mr. Al-Sahaf's comment to the London-based Arabic daily Al-Hayat followed a rare meeting last Wednesday with his Egyptian counterpart, Amr Musa, that some saw as a signal Egypt would push to bring Iraq back into the Arab fold.

In the interview in Cairo, Mr. Al-Sahaf said his optimism went beyond mere hope of resuming diplomatic links with Egypt.

"Serious efforts will lead to that," he said. "We are brotherly countries and we used to have very strong ties."

Relations between the two countries were severed when Egypt joined the U.S.-led coalition that drove Iraq out of Kuwait in 1991. Before Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Egypt and Iraq were allies and trading partners.

Egypt has been calling in recent months for lifting U.N. sanctions, including an oil embargo, which has devastated Iraq's economy.

President Hosni Mubarak told the semi-official daily Al-Ahram Saturday, "I feel sorry for the Iraqi people who are severely suffering... but I'm more optimistic than ever of the return of Arab solidarity."

Last year, Mr. Mubarak and Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan, president of the United Arab Emirates, tried to develop an initiative for reconciliation with Iraq. But the attempt was blocked by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Mr. Al-Sahaf also said that if the U.N. Security Council does not lift the sanctions when they are reviewed in October, this would be the end of Iraq's cooperation with the council.

"We will be free from any commitments towards the Security Council," he said. "We are not ready to deal with somebody who does not give us our rights."

Carter proposes unity among Sudan factions

NAIROBI (AFP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter continued efforts Saturday to end the civil war in Sudan, proposing unity talks among southern rebel factions.

He flew out of Nairobi, where he held talks with Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi and South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM) leader Riek Machar, for Kampala, where he was due to meet Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and John Garang, the leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, the main rebel faction.

He will return to Khartoum after that for further talks with Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir.

Carter told journalists before leaving Nairobi that he was "very hopeful" of obtaining an extension of a ceasefire between government and rebel forces which he negotiated in March and which is due to expire at the end of this month.

The Sudanese government reacted coolly to the prospect, however, with Deputy Foreign Minister Ghazi Salaheddine saying in Khartoum that the ceasefire benefited the rebels.

Mr. Carter's trip to Sudan, where he visited disputed areas in the south as well as Khartoum, was "one of my most encouraging visits," he said, adding that he had held good talks with Mr. Moi, who is chairman of the Inter-governmental Authority on Drought and Development, a regional body that is playing an increasingly active role in mediating conflicts.

Mr. Carter said the SSIM rebels were "very eager" for reconciliation with other Christian and animist rebels in south Sudan who are fighting domination by north.

Whether the SPLA leadership was prepared to hold South-South peace talks, "I don't yet know," he said. "I hope so."

Lebanese army hunts clan gangs

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Lebanese and Syrian troops launched a dragnet in the Bekaa Valley of east Lebanon Saturday for feuding clansmen wanted for murder, drug trafficking and car theft the army command reported.

A communiqué said the pre-dawn house-to-house sweep targeted an undetermined number of suspects from the powerful Masri and Teiss clans in the British district, 10 kilometres west of the Syrian border.

The operation followed a spate of grenade attacks and gun battles between the two tribes in which two people

were killed and eight wounded in the last month, the communiqué said.

Police said in a statement that 29 people from both clans were arrested in Saturday's dragnet. Arms and ammunition were confiscated, but the statement did not give quantities.

Bekaa clans have long flourished on growing hashish and opium in the key narcotics producing region. They have traditionally fought each other in blood feuds for supremacy of the drugs trade.

Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri's government cracked

down on the narcotics industry in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa in 1993, eliminating most of the hashish production which had long bankrolled Middle East terrorist groups and militias during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

The U.S. government has been pressuring Syria and Lebanon for years to crack down on the narcotics growers and traffickers.

Syria, the undisputed power in Lebanon, has 40,000 troops deployed in the country, ostensibly as peacekeepers to prevent the civil war flaring again.

Chechenya talks snag over Russian remarks

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Talks on ending the war in Chechenya hit a snag Saturday over a Russian negotiator's remark to reporters, and later adjourned for the day without an expected agreement.

The Russian delegate, Arkady Volysky, was asked Friday night whether Chechenya would remain part of the Russian federation.

"Where else could it go?" which is trying to win some kind of independence.

"Such a crude answer shows, in my opinion, disrespect for the Chechen delegation and for the results achieved by peaceful diplomatic means," the chief Chechen negotiator, Usman Imaev, said Saturday.

Talks continued, however, and Mr. Imaev said individual statements should not be allowed to disappoint "people throughout Chechenya (who) have been alerted to celebrate the signing of a political document," the Interfax news agency

quoted him as saying.

Mr. Imaev and his Russian counterpart, Vyacheslav Mikhailov, had both reported important progress before Saturday's talks, and said a final political accord could be signed later in the day.

The question of Chechenya's political status has been the chief stumbling block in weeks of talks to end the seven-month war in the breakaway republic.

Russia's NTV television network reported that President Boris Yeltsin was unhappy with the latest Russian position on Chechenya's status and ordered Saturday that it be "made tougher." No details were reported.

The Chechens want Moscow to recognise their independence, declared in 1991. Russia insists that Chechenya remain part of the Russian Federation, but concedes that the question may be put aside until after elections and a referendum on a Chechen constitution, planned for the fall.

It remains unclear how

agreement could be reached under both constitutions. Some Russian reports have suggested that Chechenya will be allowed to call itself independent while remaining de facto in Russia.

The Chechens have previously opposed any mention of the Russian constitution in agreements.

Talks are going normally," Mr. Volysky told the ITAR-TASS news agency after a closed-door session adjourned Saturday evening. He said negotiators had been instructed to make no public statements because the press "distorted information on the course of talks."

Negotiations were to resume Sunday.

Yeltsin sent thousands of troops into Chechenya in December to end the southern republic's independence drive. Thousands of people have been killed.

Despite a truce announced last month, sporadic fighting continues.

(Continued on page 7)

Khamenei limits power of Rafiq-Doost

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei widely limited on Saturday the powers of the influential director of a revolutionary foundation here in a management reshuffle at the organisation.

Imam Khamenei set up a board of trustees to jointly administer the powerful Foundation for the Deprived and War Disabled (FDWD) with Mohsen Rafiq-Doost, who was appointed to his post in 1989 and had until now run the organisation alone, Tehran radio said.

The move followed "fundamental changes" introduced by the leader to the foundation to ensure "its better management through broader participation in important decision making."

It was not clear whether Mr. Rafiq-Doost, a hitherto trusted figure who served once as the head of the elite Revolutionary Guards, would continue to represent Imam Khamenei at FDWD, a post which had so far ensured him total control over the wealthy institution.

The foundation, created after the 1979 Islamic revolu-

tion to oversee properties confiscated from the associates of the former shah and other wealthy people in Iran, is involved in many industrial and agricultural projects and is worth billions of dollars.

It works independently from President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's government and comes directly under Imam Khamenei.

The move to reign in Mr. Rafiq-Doost came after his brother Morteza Rafiq-Doost was charged over his alleged role in a \$200-million embezzlement from a state bank.

Mr. Morteza Rafiq-Doost, now in prison without bail, is undergoing a trial for illegally diverting funds worth \$28 million from a branch of Saderat bank in northern Tehran in early 1992.

The alleged embezzlement first made the news in January and has since been widely publicised by radical Islamic groups in Iran demanding a thorough investigation.

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Oman poised to deploy South African guns

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — Oman was reported Saturday to be poised to introduce 155mm self-propelled artillery guns acquired from South Africa, which is making a major push in host trade with the Gulf region.

The sultanate's chief-of-staff, Brigadier Khamies Bin Hameed Al-Kalabani, made the disclosure in an interview with the daily Oman and said it was important to diversify Oman's arms purchases.

Britain has traditionally been Oman's main arms supplier. But Brig. Kalabani said that the sultanate now gets weapons systems from the

United States and France as well "and will soon introduce the self-propelled 155mm gun made in South Africa."

He said, without elaboration, that Oman is also seeking to buy arms from other countries as well.

The oil-rich sultanate on the Arabian Peninsula's southeastern tip shares control of the strategic Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf, with Iran.

Oman is the first Gulf state to admit that it has bought the South African G-6, considered to be among the best artillery pieces in the world. The South Africans have

said G-6s, and towed G-5 155mm guns, have been sold to other Gulf states. But they have never identified them.

Illegal trade

Meanwhile it was revealed that South Africa's state-owned arms maker flouted U.N. embargoes and illegally sold weapons to countries engaged in civil war as late September 1994, a government report said Friday.

An independent commission of inquiry headed by Justice Edwin Cameron established that weapons

shipments officially destined for Lebanon were illegally sold to Yemen in 1993 and 1994, despite civil war and a U.N. arms embargo on that country.

The strongly worded report accused the former apartheid government and weapons manufacturer Armscor of "systematic disregard for where its arms exports ended up."

The commission, appointed by President Nelson Mandela in October last year to investigate all Armscor weapons deals since February 1990, exposed South Africa's weapons in-

dustry to unprecedented scrutiny.

The report brings to light Armscor's use of front companies and foreign intermediaries to evade the U.N. arms embargo against South Africa, imposed in the 1970s as a protest against white minority rule and lifted only last May.

The report recommended the immediate dismissal of two top Armscor executives and legal action against a third. It also called for a thorough review of arms trade policy, decision-making procedures, operational systems and control mechanisms.

The inquiry was sparked by an international outcry when a shipment of AK-47 assault rifles, ammunition and other weapons destined for Lebanon turned up in Yemen during the civil war last year.

The commission heard that the deal with Lebanese arms middleman Elias Wuzan, operating on behalf of Saudi Prince Anwar Al-Shalalan, was put together by Armscor's former marketing head Miriun Vermaak.

This case not isolated case, the report concluded. Previous Armscor consignments destined for Lebanon also

ended up in Yemen and in the former Yugoslavia, before it fell into civil war in 1991.

The commission's enquiries are not over. It will seek evidence of similar deals, possibly delving into reports that Armscor sold arms to Rwanda after its government embarked on genocide against the Tutsi minority last year. Armscor has denied the reports.

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Indian returns from the dead to divinity

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A 34-year-old man returned to his home in the Indian capital a day after he was "cremated," amazing his family and neighbours who proceeded to deify him, police said Saturday.

Ajay Chopra walked into his house, hours after his family had cremated a beggar look-alike thinking it was Ajaya, who had been missing for more than a month, a police spokesman said.

Stunned neighbours poured into Ajay's home as news of his arrival spread. Many touched his feet, thinking he had arisen from the dead, while others offered coconuts, garlands, rice and money in worship, police investigation, however, revealed that the wrong man had been cremated.

Ajay's family had escorted a beggar home Thursday thinking it was the missing man, police said. The beggar died after a sumptuous lunch, leading to "Ajay's cremation." "It was a case of mistaken identity," a police officer said. "Ajay is back with his family, and everyone is happy. However no one knows who the beggar was and why he died."

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Indonesian attacks judge with egg

JAKARTA (R) — A man charged with insulting President Suharto hurled an egg at a judge in Bandung courtroom and then snatched his gavel, the Jakarta Post reported Saturday.

The newspaper said that while Judge Achmadi was reading reports of evidence gathered against Coky Yahya Runasia Arotang, the defendant stood up and pelted him with an egg that had been concealed under his shirt.

As the judge, who was presiding over the case Friday, covered his face with his hands, the angry defendant grabbed his gavel and threw it down, the report said. "Lies, lies, lies... All the charges are lies. This is a frame up," Mr. Arotang reportedly yelled. Two other judges present, Sudjigno and Simanjuntak, snatched their wooden names plates from the bench and fled, fearing the defendant might use them to assault Judge Achmadi, the report added.

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Drug-crazed man rapes, detains 2 women

MANILA (AP) — A drug-crazed chauffeur raped two maids and then held them hostage early Friday in a posh neighbourhood near Manila's financial district.

The man, identified as Alberto Estrella, the driver of the widow of late Supreme Court Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, snapped after one of the maids repeatedly rebuffed his romantic advances, one of the maids said.

At about 1:30 a.m., Mr. Estrella, armed with a handgun and a dagger, burst into the servants' quarters of the household and forced himself on the two women, a maid identified only as Liselle told reporters. "He fired his gun once to force us to open the door," Liselle said. "Then he ordered us to undress and raped us. We were too afraid to resist."

Liselle told reporters that Mr. Estrella had been frustrated in his attempts to court the other maid, whom she only identified as Susie.

Mr. Estrella, 35, is charged with insulting President Suharto and is being held in custody.

London palace gate-crasher freed pending hearing

LONDON (AFP) — A 21-year-old student whose car crashed into the gates of Buckingham Palace, home of Queen Elizabeth II, was released by a London court until his case is brought on Aug. 18. John Gillard was charged with dangerous driving and causing damage of £50,000 (\$75,000) when his car hit the palace gates on Jan. 13. No members of the royal family were in the palace at the time. One of the gates toppled onto the car, but the driver who had just driven 380 kilometres (235 miles) from Wakefield, northern England, where he was a student, was not injured. Two psychiatrists examined Mr. Gillard.

Mr. Gillard, 21, was charged with dangerous driving and causing damage of £50,000 (\$75,000) when his car hit the palace gates on Jan. 13. No members of the royal family were in the palace at the time. One of the gates toppled onto the car, but the driver who had just driven 380 kilometres (235 miles) from Wakefield, northern England, where he was a student, was not injured. Two psychiatrists examined Mr. Gillard.

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